Volume 66 | Number 1 | Winter 2020

The Marker Lamp

LONE ★ STAR REGION

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

nmra.org

The Marker Lamp

The Official Publication of
The Lone Star Region of the
National Model Railroad Association

Volume 66, Number 1

EDITOR
RILEY TRIGGS
512.636.3521
rileytriggs@gmail.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
GERT "SPEED" MULLER
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

ADVERTISING
GERT "SPEED" MULLER
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

Visit the LSR's web page at:
www.lonestarregion.com

The editorial policy of The Marker Lamp, the official publication of The Lone Star Region, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility. The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association. Articles appearing in The Marker Lamp are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of The Lone Star Region or The National Model Railroad Association.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to Pike Ads and Dealer Ads should be addressed to Speed Muller lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

Cover photo
Duane Richardson & Ray Byer making ribbons in the contest room
by Donna Orr

Submission Deadlines & Advertising Closing Dates

Winter Issue	January 15
Spring Issue	April 15
Summer Issue	July 15
Fall Issue	October 15

Internet Post Date:
Approx. 30 Days After Deadline.
Materials received after the deadline will be held for the next issue.

Lone Star Region Call Board

LSR Officers

PRESIDENT
CHUCK LIND, MMR
3680 CR 324
Navasota, Texas 77868
(979) 219-3305
Chucklind46@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
RAY BYER
713-472-4599
raybyer@yahoo.com

SECRETARY
JEFF PALMER
2806 High Plateau Dr.
Garland, Texas 75044
(972) 495-2097
res06wqv@gte.net

BOARD ADVISOR
STEVE BARKLEY, MMR
2060 Belvedere Drive
Beaumont, Texas 77706
(210) 653-5947
baylormax@aol.com

TREASURER
GERT "SPEED" MULLER
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

SECRETARY-EMERITUS
EUNICE LINDA
3028 Cumberland
Waco, Texas 76707-1219
(254) 754-5535
jlinda@hot.rr.com

LSR Directors-At-Large

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
BLAKE BOGS
8202 Pine Thistle Ln.
Spring, TX 77379
713-254-7447
superchief1520@gmail.com

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
MARC LACHEY
2218 Blackberry Dr.
Richardson, TX 75082
214-507-7779
bu1977@att.net

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
RILEY TRIGGS
1005 Azie Morton Rd
Austin, Texas 78704
(512) 636-3521
rileytriggs@gmail.com

LSR Division Directors

(1) COWCATCHER DIVISION
MIKE MACKEY
1633 Parkside Trail
Lewisville, Texas 75077
214-460-1329
director@cowcatcherdivision.org

(2) BAYOU DIVISION
KEN MASON
4340 COLORADO AVE
KENNER, LA 70065
504-722-6610
series9parts@cox.net

(3)TRINITY RIVER DIVISION
DONNA ORR
2625 Rolling Meadows Dr.
Rockwall, TX 75087
(972) 722-4769
dlo-rls@sbcglobal.net

(4) CEN-TEX DIVISION
BOB THIEL
director@centexnmra.org

(5) DIVISION
DAVE LAMBERTS
3717 95th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79423-3811
(806) 792-7244
DavidWL1944@aol.com

(6) DIVISION
DON WINN
18026 Bishops Pond
San Antonio, TX 78257
(940) 391-0950
donswinn@gmail.com

(7) DIVISION
DON P. KIMMELL
9132 Mansfield Road
Shreveport, Louisiana 71118
(318) 798-7718
elf4kcs@mac.com

(8) TEXAS GULF DIVISION
JIM LEMMOND
2821 Frostwood Circle
Dickinson, Texas 77539
281-534-6179
281-229-0845
jimlem@verizon.net

LSR Chairs

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
DUANE RICHARDSON, MMR
1122 Holland Drive
Garland, TX 75040
(972) 495-6375
duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com

PUBLICATIONS- ML EDITOR
RILEY TRIGGS
1005 Azie Morton Rd
Austin, Texas 78704
(512) 636-3521
rileytriggs@gmail.com

CONTEST CHAIR
RAY BYER
713-472-4599
raybyer@yahoo.com

CONVENTION
MARC LACHEY
2218 Blackberry Dr.
Richardson, TX 75082
214-507-7779
bu1977@att.net

HISTORIAN
BOB BARNETT
2925 Plumb Street
Houston, Texas 77005
(713) 660-8820
Barnett6@sbcglobal.net

NOMINATIONS CHAIR
PETE LEACH
pleachtx55@gmail.com

EVENTS
BILL DRYDEN
202 Tallwood Drive
Georgetown, Texas 78628
(469) 964-8571
bdr149@airmail.net

WEB SITE-PUBLIC RELATIONS
JEFF PALMER
2806 High Plateau Dr.
Garland, Texas 75044
(972) 495-2097
res06wqv@gte.net

PHOTOGRAPHY CHAIR
MICHAEL HARANG
17386 Williams Rd.
Franklinton , LA 70438
469-556-9371
miharang@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRMAN
MIKE MACKEY
1700 Desperado Road
Fort Worth, TX 76131
214-460-1329
mikemackey_tx@sbcglobal.net

PARLIAMENTARIAN
RAY BYER
713-472-4599
raybyer@yahoo.com

NON-RAIL
VIRGINIA FREITAG
1835 Alta Vista
Houston, Texas 77023-2503
(713) 926-2993
v-gfreitag@comcast.net

EDUCATION CHAIR
VACANT

YOUTH CHAIR
JIM LEMMOND
2821 Frostwood Circle
Dickinson, Texas 77539
281-534-6179
281-229-0845
jimlem@verizon.net

President's Message

by Chuck Lind, MMR
Chucklind46@gmail.com

Hope everyone made it through the holiday season without any problems other than maybe too much to eat. I have just returned from the LSR Convention in Houston and the Board Meeting. Bob Barnet promised a great convention with a different twist and he and his crew delivered. I don't know the final count but is was just over 160 people. Houston wanted to try combining the convention with the train show and even gave the LSR folks an hour before the show opened to look for deals.

The Board meeting was held on Thursday afternoon before the convention. Marc LaChey our convention chair brought two proposals to the Board for consideration. He has been in contact with the Mid-Content Region about hosting a joint convention with them. The idea was approved by the Mid-Content Board at their January meeting. After some discussion and which Region would handle the different responsibilities it was approved by the LSR Board to participate in the joint convention. It will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2021 - the exact date is still to be announced.

The responsibility of our region will be to handle clinics, guest speaker, and registration. These are all things that can be handled remotely and the registration part of this has already been handled thanks to Chris Atkins for volunteering. If you have suggestions for clinics or guest speaker please contact Marc or myself. Marc also presented a proposal from Division 4 to host a convention in 2022. This motion also was passed. In discussing this with Bob Thiele he was going to investigate the possibility of having it in Temple, rich with railroad history.

David Lamberts our Region 5 Director and long time Photography Chair decided to step back from being Photography Chair. While he was not able to attend the Convention in Houston, I did decide to present him with the Presidents Award for his many years of service to the LSR. While trying to figure out who I could appoint to the position I had a member step forward and volunteer. Michael Harang of Franklinton, Louisiana. Michael thanks for volunteering!

We did have a member of the NMRA Board attend the Houston Convention. Fred Headon, MMR the Canadian Director from Winnipeg cane to take in our warmer weather. He attended the Board meeting but his main reason for attending was to meet with Jay C. Williams an Orchestra and Choir Teacher who has started up a model railroad club at the school several years ago and has been producing some great young modelers. The school has been very supportive of this venture and has now gotten the attention of the NMRA. Fred was going to meet with Jay and the students the Monday after the convention to find out how things work.

We will be having a Board meeting sometime around the end of May or first part of June. When the date and time is set I will have Jeff send out a notice to the LSR members since all meetings are open to the members.

Thanks again to Houston and also Tulsa and Division 4 for steeping forward to host a convention. Back to working on my railroad.

I came for breakfast with Santa, but I stayed for the trains

by Riley Triggs
rileytriggs@gmail.com
ponyrr.blogspot.com
modelrailroaddesign.blogspot.com

This Austin Model Railway Society's (AMRS) visitor really wants to touch, but she managed not to.

For the second consecutive year, the Austin Model Railway Society (AMRS) set up our modular layout for the Breakfast with Santa event at the Hope Presbyterian Church in north Austin.

The annual event features a free pancake breakfast and photos with Santa. One of our members, Chuck Marling, is a member at Hope, and suggested that we participate after we rented the gym for several months for our monthly meeting and setup.

Many of our members were able to attend, and everyone enjoyed sharing the layout and talking with visitors. Peter Bryan was out scouting for engineers, and had several kids take turns running the trains.

This is a great event for our club getting to share the layout with more kids than usual, and we held a free raffle for the kids. Each child received one free raffle ticket, and then at the end of the event, Santa drew the winning ticket.

The winning child was on the young side and didn't quite know what was going on, and he disagreed a bit with all the attention he was suddenly getting. But the dad, who had asked many questions about the prize and model railroading during the day, was very happy and couldn't wait to get home to set up the O scale Lionel Christmas train set.

I tend to get caught up in trying to figure out how to get more people interested and into the hobby and forget that a simple event like this is can be a very effective tool towards that end. Just getting in front of people is great advertising showing how much fun you can have running trains.

We'll do it again next Christmas, and we are working on other opportunities to engage the general public during the year. If you have any events geared towards the general public, share them with the *Marker Lamp,* and we can swap notes.

Riley

Santa drew the winning ticket for the train set raffle prize. The winner wasn't happy about the attention, but the dad was happy about the prize. AMRS member Joel Davidson (with the clipboard) is officiating the drawing.

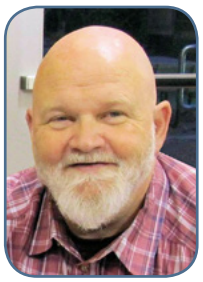
You can't be too old nor too young to enjoy the trains.

Chuck Marling (hat) and John Ames explain how it all works.

Over 250 people visited the AMRS layout the morning of breakfast with Santa. AMRS member Peter Bryan recruits engineers for hands-on experience running trains.

George Zapalac runs a Christmas Special through Santa's village.

Up the Tracks Events Calendar



By Bill Dryden
NMRA & LSR Life Member

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net.

Lone Star Region 2021 Annual Convention Joint Regional with Mid-Content Region
Tulsa, OK!!!! Come all!!
PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 2 -– Metairie, LA
LSR Division 2 meets on Mondays between July 30th to October 1st at the Crescent City Model Railroad Club, 601 N. Lester Ave in Metairie, LA 70003 at 6:30 PM for Modular Monday. For more information contact Ken Mason at series9parts@cox.net.

LSR Division 3 - Trinity River Division – Allen
The Trinity River Division meets on the Third Saturday of every month at the Christ Servant Lutheran Church, Allen Texas. Occasionally things change due to scheduling conflicts so pay close attention to the email meeting notices that go out a week before the meeting. If you would like to be added to the email list contact Donna Orr at donnalorrtx@gmail.com.

LSR Division 4 – Cen-Tex Division – Austin
The Cen-Tex Division meets bi-monthly at the Austin Northwest Recreational Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, TX. Meetings are held at 10:00 am on the Second Saturday of the odd months and include clinics, show-and-tell, DCC minute, social activities and a layout open house. For more information about upcoming meetings, see http://centexnmra.org or contact director@centexnmra.org to be added to the mail list.

LSR Division 8 - Texas Gulf Division – Houston
The Texas Gulf Division presents hands-on-clinics every second Saturday of each month at the Bayland Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston. The clinic times are 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All are welcome. To be added to the Division 8 mailing list contact Jim Lemmond at jimlem@comcast.net. The Division 8 web site is http://texasgulfdivision.org/

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Austin Model Railway Society - Austin
The Austin Model Railway Society (AMRS) is a HO scale modular group that is open to new members and meets once a month. For more information please email Riley Triggs at president@austinrailway.org or visit the web site www.austinrailway.org.

Houston Area Live Steamers
HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Rick White – rick.white.jr@gmail.com for more information.

New Braunfels Railroad Museum

Kids Fun Day is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. New Braunfels Railroad Museum, 302 South San Antonio Street, in the 1907 Restored Railroad Depot; New Braunfels, TX. Museum phone (830) 627-2447. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to run model trains and become a Jr. Engineer. Also among the displays at the Kids Fun Day will be a large US Army Model Garden (G) Scale and Lego Trains. Visit our Steam Engine, Caboose, Dining Car (available for Birthday Parties) and Box Car. There will be other fun, train related activities, additional model trains, train artifacts, our 1907 depot are on display. The Railroad Museum opens at 10:00 am on Saturdays. For field trip scheduling and more information, call Howard Young (210) 542-6121, or visit us at www.nbrrm.org.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs – Irving

The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

Texas Northern Model Railroad Club – Plano

The Texas Northern Model Railroad Club business meeting is the 1st Thursday of the month and for regular meetings on Thursday evenings and most Saturdays. If you like to operate, come by on Tuesday nights to check on our progress in setting up operations. Located in Colin Creek Mall, Plano, TX, outside JC Penney's on the lower level. For more information: www.modelrailroadclub.org.

Texas Western Model Railroad Club – Forest Hills

The Texas Western Model Railroad Club meets for its business meeting every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. The Club is located at 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twmrc.org or email cdo@twmrc.org.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

February

15th Greater Houston Train Show. (Sponsored by the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adults $6, Children 12 to 18 $1, Under 12 Free. Stafford Center, 10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX. More information at http://sanjacmodeltrains.org/.

22nd – 23rd 44th Annual Jamboree & Train Show. (Sponsored by San Antonio Model Railroad Association). Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Children (Limit 3) under 16 free when accompanied by a paying adult, Wounded Warriors and Active Military and their family free. Garden Ridge Community Center, 9500 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, TX. More information: jamboree@samratx.org or www.samratx.org.

March

7th TCA Train Show. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission $5. First Baptist Church Gym, 325 E. Pine St., Ponchatoula, LA. More information: Clay Fourrier at trains@dovetailstudio.com.

April

18th – 19th New Braunfels 32nd Annual Train Show Jamboree. (Sponsored by New Braunfels Railroad Museum). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8 (14 & older), Child $2 (3-13 years old). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX. More information: www.newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/trainshow.

25th Train Day at the Jefferson Parish. (Presented by the National Model Railroad Association, Lone Star Region, Division 2 and the Crescent City Model Railroad Club). Sat. 10 AM - 3 PM. Admission Free. East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave. Metairie, LA. More information: (504) 737-3723 or www.ccmrc.com.

May

2nd – 3rd Austin Area Train Show 2020. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Adults $7, Children 12 and under FREE with adult. Williamson County Expo Center, 5350 Bill Pickett Trail, Taylor, TX. More information: info@austintrainshow.org or https://austintrainshow.org/.

25th Train Day at the Jefferson Parish. (Presented by the National Model Railroad Association, Lone Star Region, Division 2 and the Crescent City Model Railroad Club). Sat. 10 AM - 3 PM. Admission Free. East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave. Metairie, LA. More information: (504) 737-3723 or www.ccmrc.com.

October

18th – 19th New Braunfels 12th Annual Fall Train Show. (Sponsored by New Braunfels Railroad Museum). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8 (14 & older), Child $2 (3-13 years old). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX. More information: www.newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/trainshow.

Excursion Train Trips

Austin Steam Train; Cedar Park, TX; (512) 477-8468; www.austinsteamtrain.org

Grapevine Vintage Railroad; Grapevine, TX; (817) 410-3185; www.gvrr.com

Old Hickory Railroad; Jackson, LA; (225) 634-7397; www.louisianasteamtrain.com

Texas State Railroad; Palestine & Rusk, TX; (888) 987-2461; www.texasstaterr.com

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Who's track goes there?

You tell me who's layout this big photo is from, and I give the first person to email me the correct answer at rrrduino@huntatrophy.com a campfire lighting Arduino next time we meet!

Do you live in central Texas?

Whether you're new to model railroading,
want a large layout but don't have the room,
or just want to hang out with friends...

Come join us!

We're an HO scale modular club with regular meetings in the Austin area.
Members participate in many ways, from software to scenery to operations.

AUSTIN MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY
EST 2017
AMRS

Check out all our website at **austinrailway.org** for more information and how to join.
You can also reach us at **info@austinrailway.com** or **(512) 836-5275**.

...RRRduino...

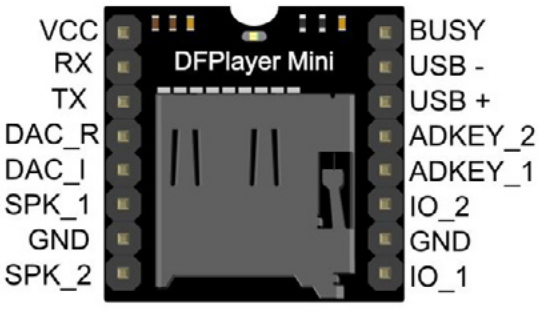
by Speed

Layout sound on demand!

Since more than one person has asked, here we go...all the sounds that you have collected over the years can now be played from your railroad. In this article you will wire a sound playing module to a speaker and a Nano with 6 wires.

Imagine a button to announce the next train ready to leave, a light sensor noticing a stock car at the loading chute making some cattle noises, wheels squealing around a curve, or on my layout, elephants and lions in the wild! Then there are the crickets that also work when Division 3 is trying to have clinics in several rooms.

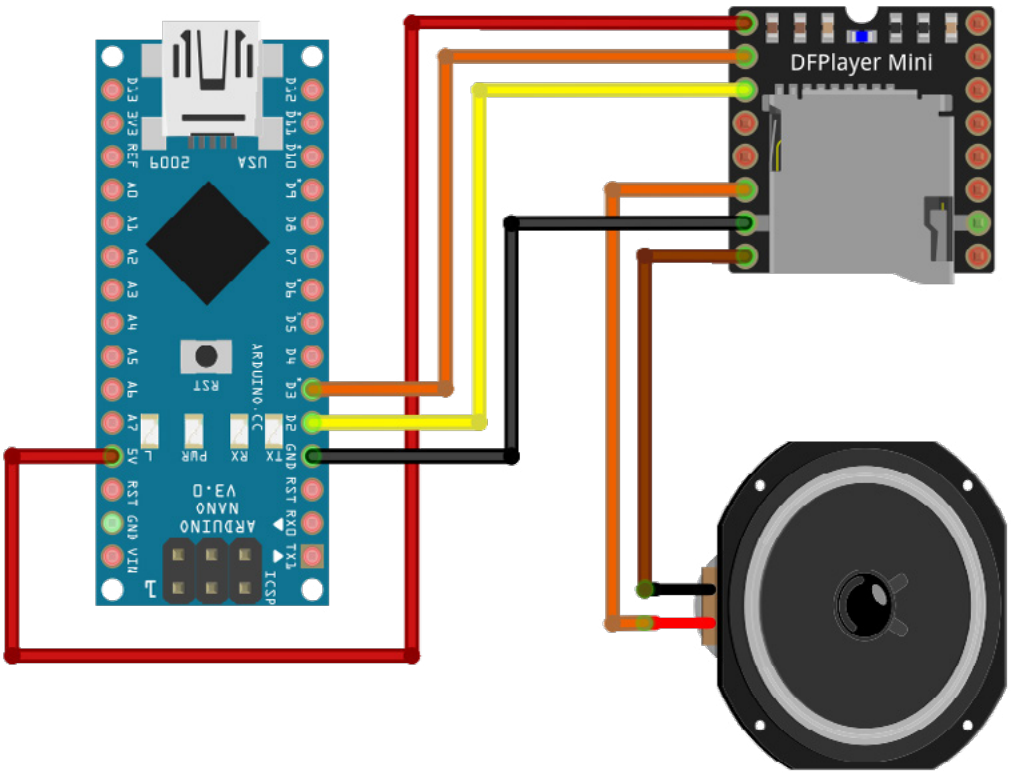
So, save some sounds, (or “songs” called from here on), in MP3 format, onto a micro (u) SD card using your personal computer. Reading the documentation makes it a bit confusing, **from:** the order in which you drag the files to the uSD card, **to:** having up to 100 folders each with up to 255 sounds and commands calling which file to play in which folder?!? What I did was save my sound files as 001.mp3, 002.mp3 and so forth in the root folder of the drive, and had no trouble getting them to play. Remember to properly “Eject” the card using your operating system software before removing it from the computer. Insert it into the uSD Card slot and when you power it all up, expect to hear some sounds!



DFPlayer Mini pinout

We are using the DFPlayer Mini, $8.90 from the original creators DFRobot, $9.06 at Amazon or as low as $1.52 on Ebay and $1.08 at AliExpress. With little more than power, ground and two more wires connected to the Nano, as well as the two wires to the speaker (< 3 Watt), you are ready to play. If you have an application where a user could press any one of 20 buttons to play 20 different "songs", you won't even need an Arduino, just read and build the AD KEY Mode example shown in paragraph 2 in this section online. In this article, however, we will be using the I/O Mode, since we also want the Nano to trigger on an input, like a train passing by or a person pushing a button and then play the "songs". Any 8 Ohm speaker would work, just know that the amplifier on the Mini can only deliver 3 Watts and it is powered from the Nano's regulator. Here are 10 speakers from Amazon for $9. Do know that the science of speakers making sounds are still at work here and an enclosure like a baffle might still be needed to give you the best sound. This article is not for audiophiles, you would have already installed the Kipnis Outer Limits Theatre equipment in your train room!

First the wiring diagram: as shown in the next diagram, we will connect the speaker to the DFPlayer Mini with two wires. Note that your speaker might have a + and/or - sign for its connections, so hook the + to the SPK_1 on the DFPlayer and the - to SPK_2. If no polarity, just connect the speaker wires to SPK_1 and SPK_2.



Power (5Vdc) and ground from the Nano (5V and GND) to the DFPlayer ("VCC" @ pin 1 and "GND" @ pin 7 or 10 on the Mini). Searching Google will show you discussions on which GND to use on the Mini, on mine, pin 7 and pin 10 are connected to each other with less than 0.01 ohms, so follow what you think is right.

Nano to DFPlayer Mini connections (thanks to fritzing)

To control the DFPlayer from the Nano, we need the orange wire from Nano pin D3 to RX and to get status from the player we want the yellow wire between the Nano pin D2 and the TX on the player.

The bulk of the code is already done for us in a library that we can download, so install it using Sketch → Include Library → Manage Libraries. Do a search for DFPlayerMini and install the one by DFPlayer (currently version 1.0.5). Now all we need to use the code is the #include statement:

```
#include "DFRobotDFPlayerMini.h"
```

And a player object to use:

```
DFRobotDFPlayerMini myDFPlayer;
```

A software serial port is needed to talk to the DFPlayer Mini, and that library is included with:

```
#include "SoftwareSerial.h"
```

Then create the software serial port, since the default hardware one is already used by the communications towards the USB port, we add:

```
#define SWRXPIN                     2
#define SWTXPIN                     3
SoftwareSerial mySoftwareSerial( SWRXPIN, SWTXPIN );     // RX pin and TX pin to DFPlayer
```

In `setup( )` we set the baud rate to talk to the DFPlayer (`9600` is the default), as well as the baud rate (I like `115,200`) to give us some information into the Serial Port Monitor (Ctrl+Shift+M) with the well known `Serial.println( )` commands.

```
#define BAUDRATE              115200
#define DFPLAYER_BAUDRATE       9600

void setup( ) {
  Serial.begin( BAUDRATE );
  mySoftwareSerial.begin( DFPLAYER_BAUDRATE );

  delay( 100 );  // give the UART a little time to settle in

  Serial.println( VERSION_STR );

  now = previous = millis( );
} // setup( )
```

VERSION_STR needs to be defined as expected, so always use something you can search for with your favorite file search tool when you come back in 3 years to look for the code. Higher up in the file, add something like:

```
#define VERSION_STR "ML2020-01 Sound by DFPlayer Mini ver 0.001"
```

From here you would like to know that the DFPlayer has a good working uSD Card inserted and maybe that there are some files on it that can be played. There are quite a few error messages that the DFPlayer can tell when something goes wrong, but we will write code here for the “happy path” and assume all is well all the time. You should definitely invest a little more time to catch most of the possible errors before you install this under your layout. Six months later when something goes wrong, you would want to plug it into a computer’s USB port and quickly see what the problem might be. There are error messages like BUSY, SLEEPING, CHECKSUM MISMATCH, FILE INDEX OUT of BOUNDS and FILE NOT FOUND that might not show up in your first hundred hours playing with it, only when you least expect it!

So in `setup( )` we wait for the DFPlayer to tell us all is well, and only then do we continue to `loop( )`, where we do some work to decide what to play. Again, the “happy path” does not take into account that you might remove the uSD Card while it is playing, so that code to check while inside `loop( )`, would be your homework. Maybe a function called `checkIfAllIsWell( )` could be used by both `setup( )` and `loop( )` to accomplish the task.

```
bool notReady = true;   // keep track if the DFPlayer is initially ready
void setup( ) {
// …
  while( notReady ) {
    if( !myDFPlayer.begin( mySoftwareSerial ) ) {
        // set myDFPlayer up to use softwareSerial and if not returning zero,
        // something is amiss
      Serial.println(  "DFPlayer begin( ) failed:" );
      Serial.println(  "Check the wiring and/or insert a uSD card" );
      notReady = true;
      delay( 1000 );    // wait a full second before trying again.
    } else {
      notReady = false; // if
    } // if ready
  } // while
```

```
  Serial.println( "DFPlayer Mini ready." );

  myDFPlayer.volume( 20 );         // set volume value, 0 to 30
  myDFPlayer.play( 1 ) ;           // play the first file/song
// …
} // setup( )
```

And now a real program. In this example, when you connect pin 4 to ground, using something like a push button switch or a BD20 track sensor, it will play all the mp3 files in the base or root folder of the uSD card, one after the other as the pin goes low every time. If there is only one file on the card, it would play it every time the pin goes low.

```
#define VERSION_STR "Sound by ML2020-01 DFPlayer Mini ver 0.001"

#define BAUDRATE              115200
#define DFPLAYER_BAUDRATE       9600

#define TIMEOUT                  500

#define SWRXPIN                    2
#define SWTXPIN                    3
#define LEDPIN                    13
#define ButtonPIN                  4

#define MAXVOLUME                 30
#define ONE

#include "SoftwareSerial.h"
#include "DFRobotDFPlayerMini.h"

SoftwareSerial mySoftwareSerial( SWRXPIN, SWTXPIN );  // RX pin and TX pin to DFPlayer
DFRobotDFPlayerMini myDFPlayer;

unsigned long int now, previous;                  // heartbeat, and avoiding delay( )

byte volume = ( 2 * MAXVOLUME ) / 3;              // change this to a value you like
byte incomingByte;
bool notReady = true;

void setup( ) {
  mySoftwareSerial.begin( DFPLAYER_BAUDRATE );    // DFPlayer default baud rate
  Serial.begin( BAUDRATE );                       // baud rate to PC, (Ctrl+Shift+M)
  delay( 100 );
  pinMode( LEDPIN, OUTPUT );
  pinMode( ButtonPIN, INPUT_PULLUP );

  Serial.println( );
  Serial.println( VERSION_STR );
```

```
  while( notReady ) {
    if( !myDFPlayer.begin( mySoftwareSerial ) ) { // use softwareSerial to communicate
with mp3
      Serial.println( "DFPlayer begin( ) failed:" );
      Serial.println( "Check the wiring and/or insert a uSD card" );
      notReady = true;
      delay( 1000 );                                  // wait 1 second to try again
    } else {
      notReady = false;
    } // if ready
  } // while
  Serial.println( "DFPlayer ready!" );

  myDFPlayer.volume( volume );                        // set volume value, 0 to 30
  myDFPlayer.play( 1 ) ;                              // play the first file

  now = previous = millis( );
} // setup( )


void loop( ) {
  now = millis( );

  if( now - previous >= TIMEOUT ) {
    digitalWrite( LEDPIN, !digitalRead( LEDPIN ) );  // heartbeat
    previous = now;
  } // if

  // Check if pin is low, then play next
  if( digitalRead( ButtonPIN ) == LOW ) {
    myDFPlayer.next( );                               // play next file
    Serial.println( "Next..." );
    delay( 1000 );                                    // crude button debounce
  } // if

  // send '+', '-' or 'n' through serial port from PC
  if( Serial.available( ) ) {
    incomingByte = Serial.read( );
    if( incomingByte == '-' ) {
      myDFPlayer.volumeDown( );                     // volume Down
    } // if -

    if( incomingByte == '+' ) {
      myDFPlayer.volumeUp( );                       // volume Up
    } // if +

    if( incomingByte == 'n' ) {
      myDFPlayer.next( );                           // play next file
      Serial.println( "next..." );
    } // if next
  } // if serial available
} // loop( )
```

Upload and enjoy!

Thank you to Dr. Kamm of the Sue Line RailRoad in Shreveport for pointing us towards the DFPlayer Mini. A few more notes:

- When you turn the DFPlayer on without, or with a bad uSD card, you'll notice a very dim red LED on the player. When the card is good, the LED will be quite bright.
- To avoid crackling noises when a song starts and/or stops, use software like Audacity to fade the sounds **in** at the beginning and fade **out** at the end.
- It does not seem possible for the DFPlayer to tell you how much time is left in a file, so if timing is important in your application, use a stopwatch to time them and hardcode the values in the Arduino.
- MP3 of WAV files can be used, sampled at as low as 8 kHz and as high as 48 kHz
- The uSD card can be as small as 2 GB and as big as 32 GB. Formatted with FAT16 or FAT32 as needed.
- When you try to upload the code to the Nano and it fails on first attempt, make sure that you have selected, under Tools, the correct Board, Processor and Port. If you bought an Arduino at a very low price, it is very likely that you need to select ATmega328P (Old Bootloader)" as the processor.

Article and code online, too, here. What next? Your turn!

ML

How to Build a Pump House

By Leo & Lorrie Palitti

Editor's note: See last issue for how to make the oil tank.

Tools Needed

Xacto w/ #11 blade
Mat for cutting on
Elmer's Glue
Sanding stick
Scale ruler

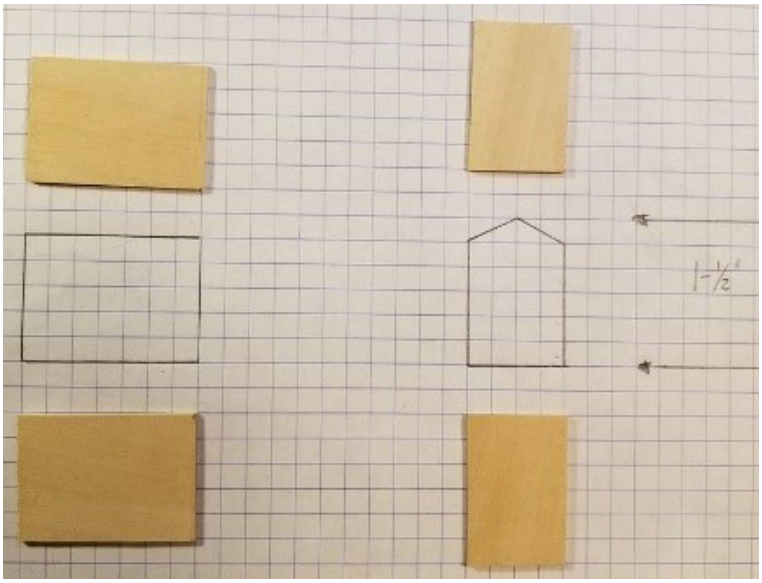
Materials Needed

Gator board
Sheet of basswood
6" piece of corner post
Scale 8x8 for bracing
6 pane window (w/glazing and shade)
4 panel Door
2 pc corrugated roofing
Cardstock for roof
Brown paper for roof peak
Vent pipe
Scale lumber 1x3 (2pc)
Roof peak scale 2x2 (3" long)
Graph paper

PLEASE NOTE: Use multiple passes with your Xacto blade to get a nice even cut. Yes, you can cut the wood with one pass but you'll tend to ride the grain of the wood and get angled cuts. More passes are better!!

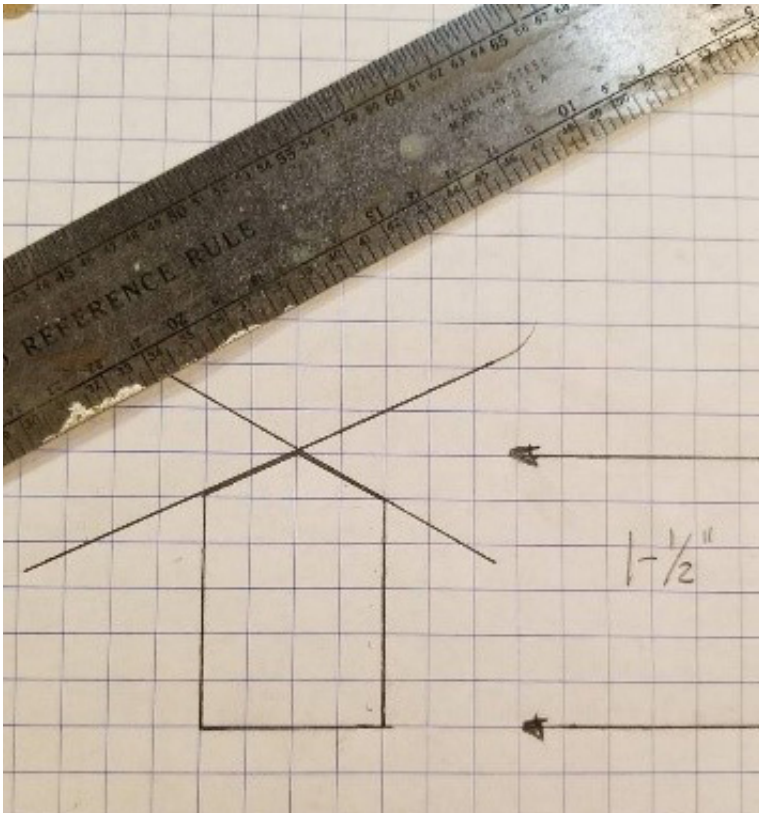
Step 1

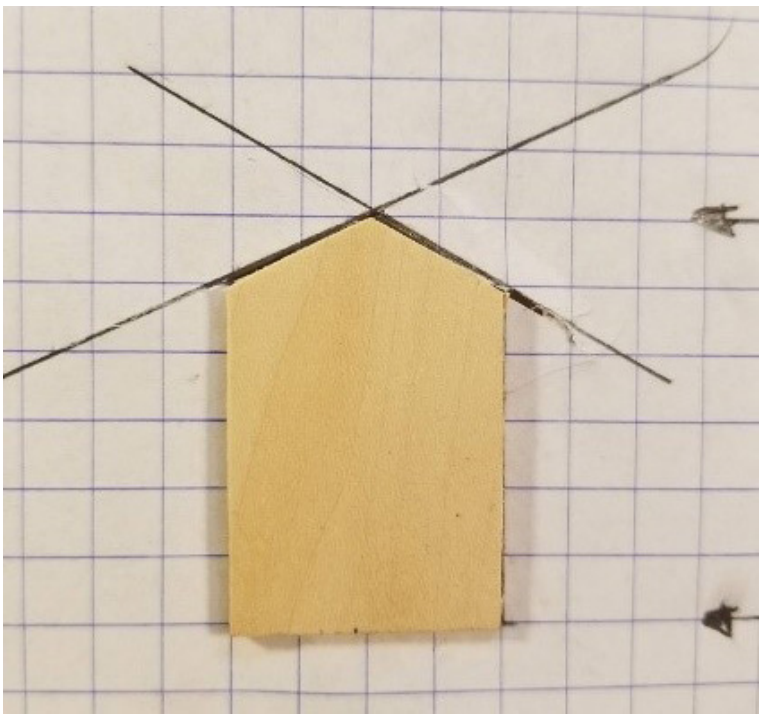
Cut the 6" corner posts into 4 pieces (1-1/4") while the Xacto blade is new.



Step 2

Find graph paper and use the wall outlines as guides to cut out the 4 walls. When done, hold the matching walls together and sand them until closely matched





Step 3

Place masking tape on the backside of one peaked wall and one rectangular wall. Use the back of your fingernail to press the tape hard onto the basswood walls. Trim extra tape from edges of the two walls. The masking tape helps to keep the basswood from splitting while you're cutting it.

Step 4

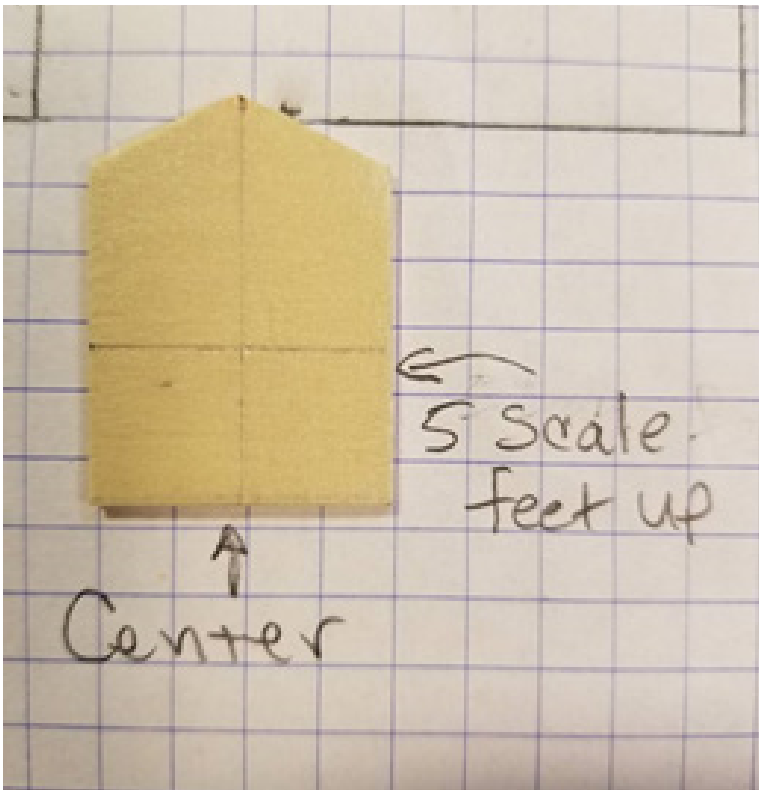
Preparing the door and window. You'll notice the sprues are still attached. Trim these off with your #11 blade and take your sanding stick and make sure they are sanded flush. There's nothing worse than looking at a nicely built structure that the modeler didn't take the time to do the one simple step.

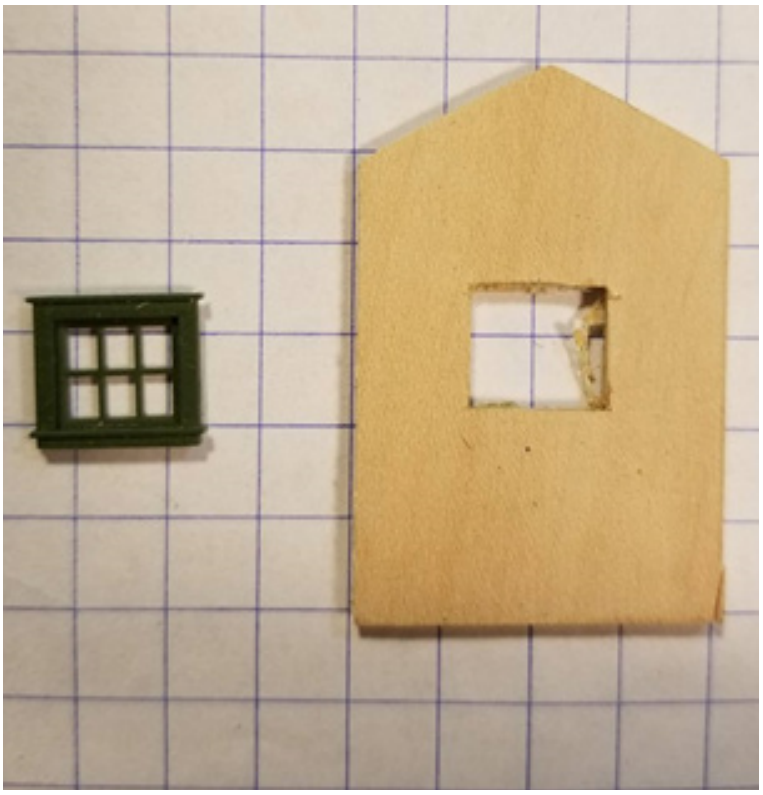
Step 5

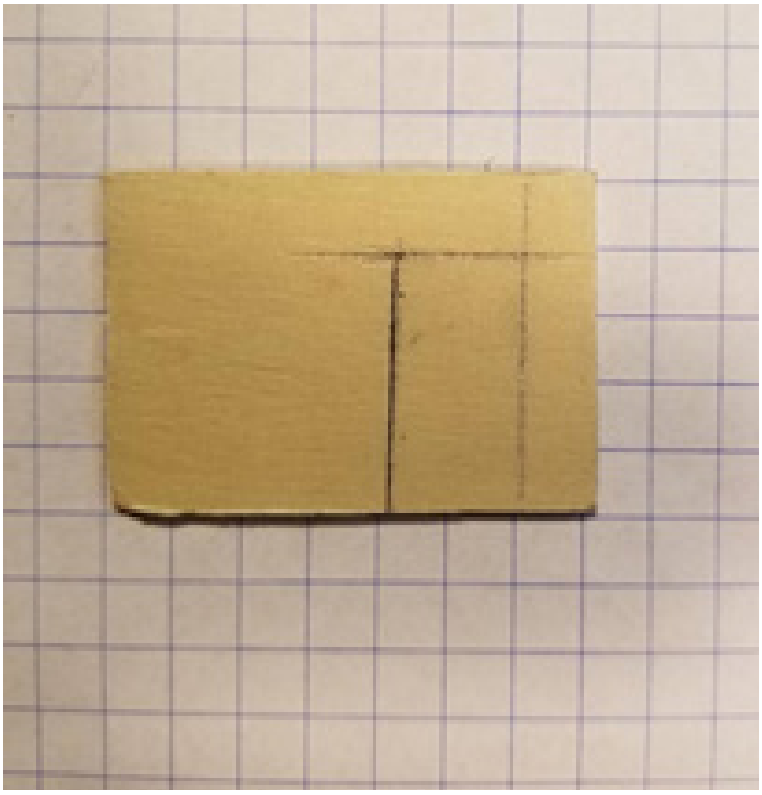
Cut the openings for the window and door. On the peaked wall (with tape) measure up 5 scale feet and draw a horizontal line on the tape and then draw a vertical line down from the peak. The window is 3/8" wide and 5/16" high. Measure out and draw the opening for the window above the 5 foot horizontal line. PLEASE NOTE: use multiple passes with your Xacto blade when cutting. It's also better that the opening be too small and that you trim a little away to make the window fit the opening.

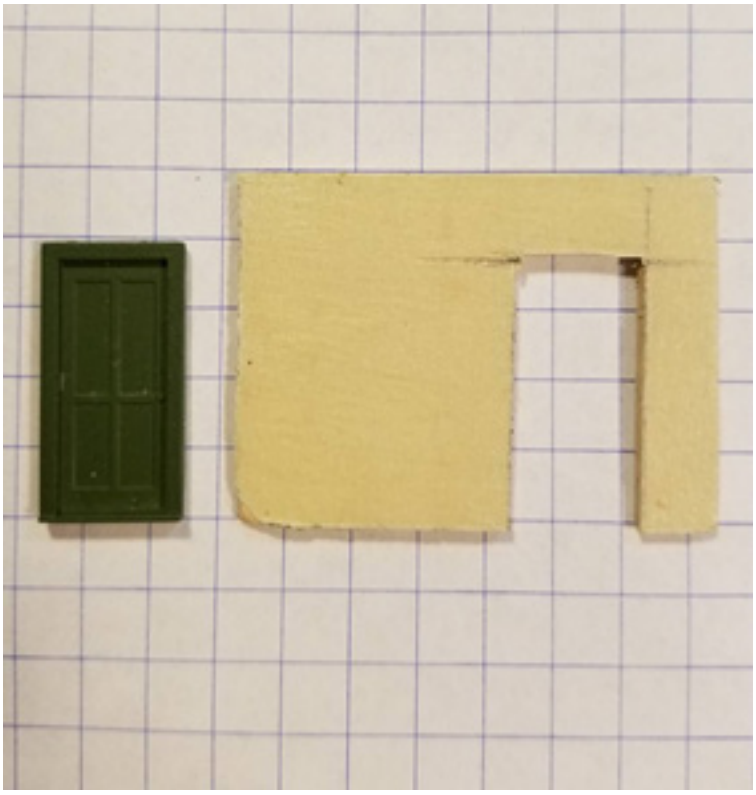
Cut the door opening. The opening needs to be off center and about 3/8" away from the side. The door is 15/16" tall and 7/16" wide. Do not be in a hurry because you'll split the wall. Take your time using several passes. If the wall does crack, let me know and I'll show you how to brace it and hide the mistake. Scratch building is all about being creative enough to hide mistakes.

Test fit the window and door. If you are satisfied with the fit, VERY CAREFULLY remove the tape from the wall with the door.


5 Scale feet up
Center

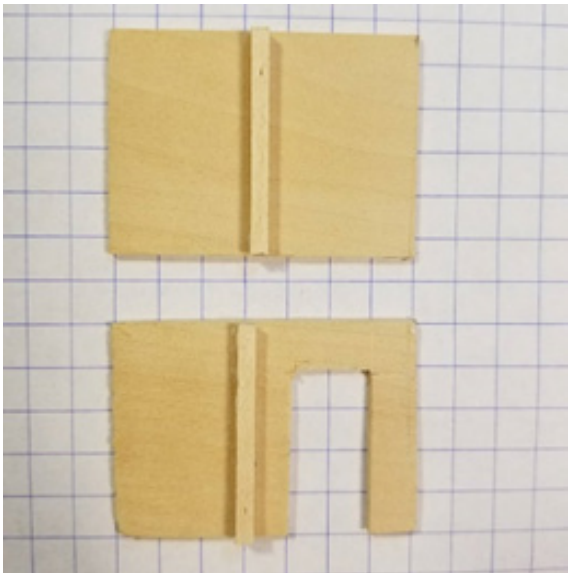


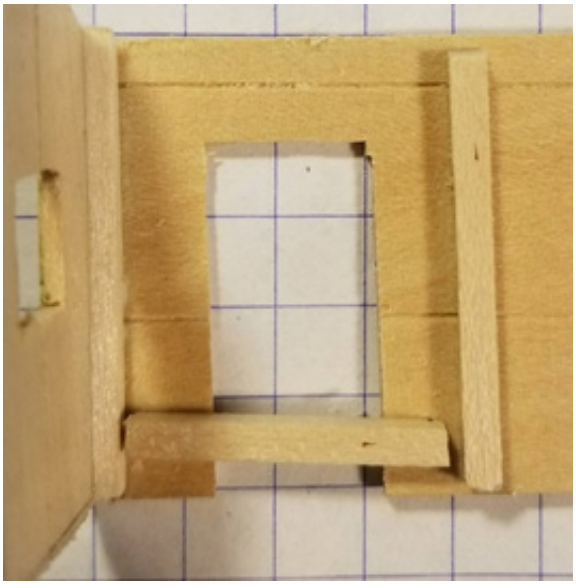




Step 6

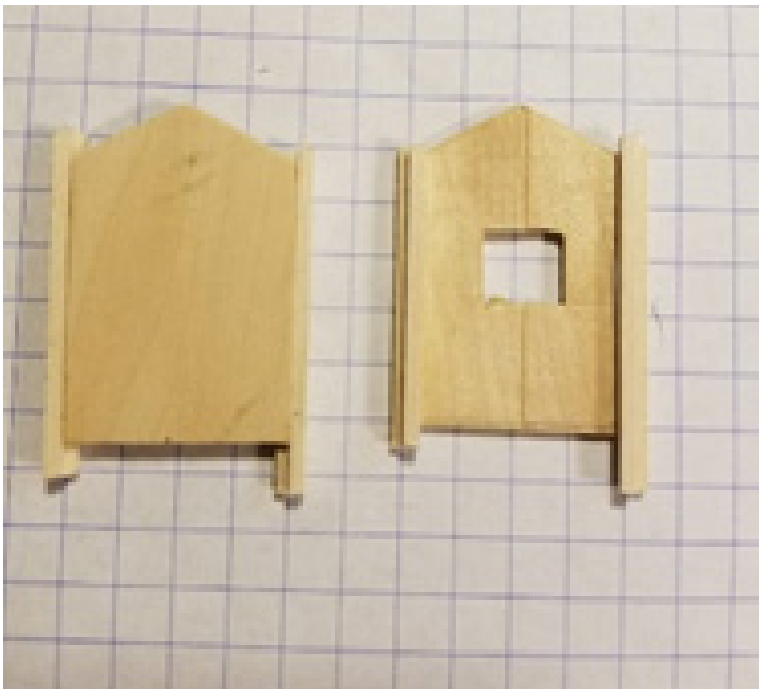
Brace the inside wall & door. Cut two vertical braces for each rectangular wall. Also, cut one horizontal brace for behind the door opening (make sure to leave room for the corner post). Place these walls under your weights and let them dry.





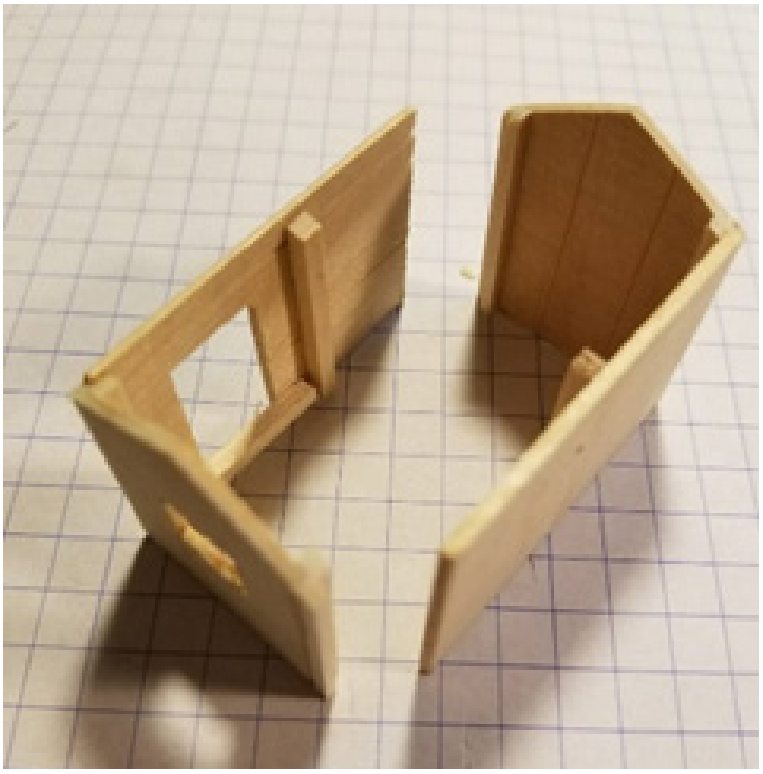
Step 7

Add the 4 corner posts to the peaked walls. It's ok that they extend past the top and bottom, we'll come back later and sand them down. Make sure they fit snug and place weights over them while they dry. Most of your walls should sit flush with your corner posts but even though they're the same size you'll see some raised areas.



Step 8

Now the corners posts should be dry so let's trim and sand the excess away. Be very careful and use small snips when trimming the posts with your Xacto. These' posts break very easily.

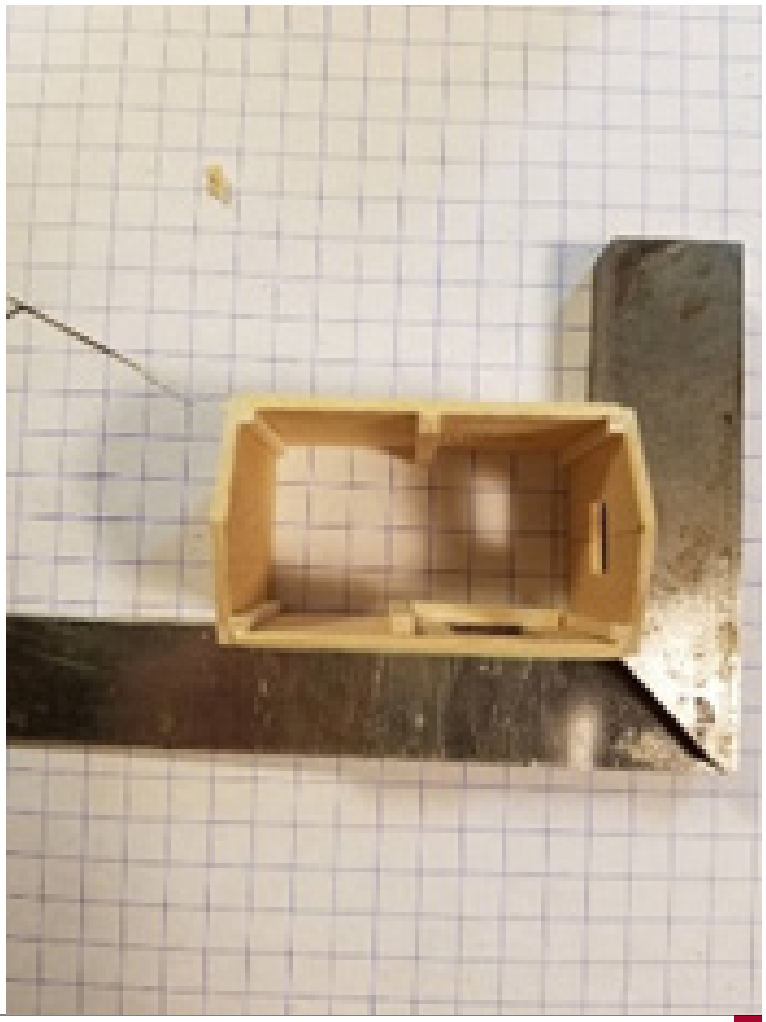


Step 9

At this time, add the window glazing to the inside of the window and add the shade if you so choose.

Step 10

Cut off one rung from the top of your ladder. Measure the ladder so the top rung is even with the top of the tank (leaving the two now extended side rails sticking above the top of the tank). Now put the ladder in place over the seam of the plating in order to hide the seam. Elmer's will work for this, I prefer Flamingo glue from Northeastern Scale Lumber (order on line). Hold the ladder in place for 2-3 minutes until dry.

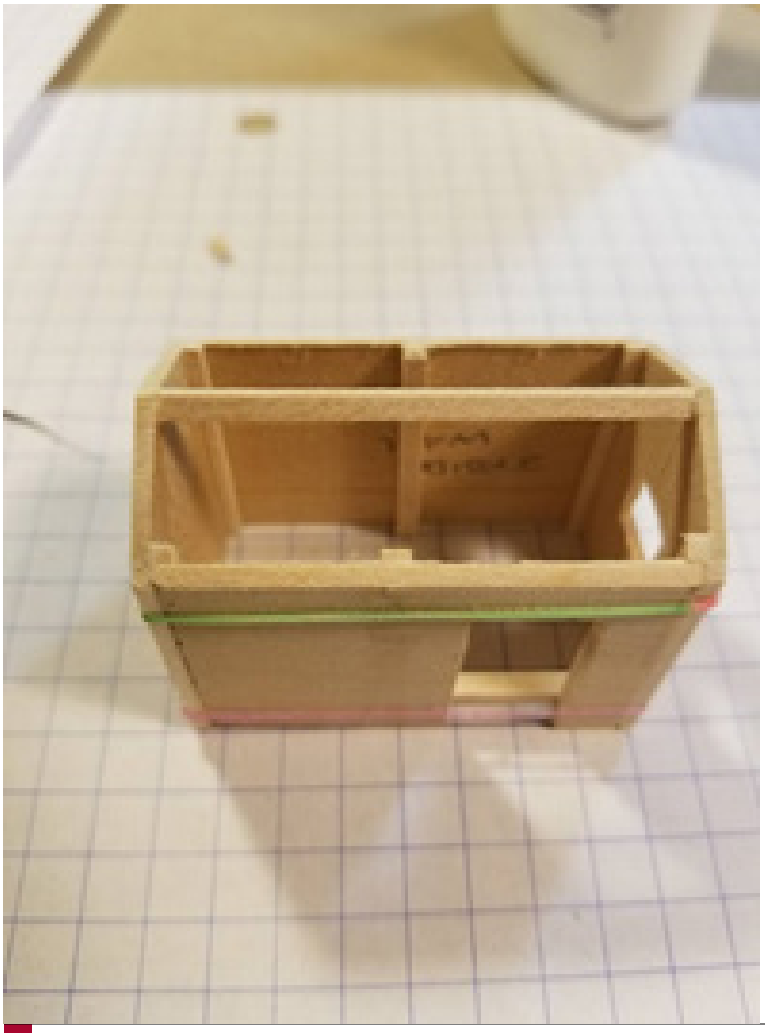


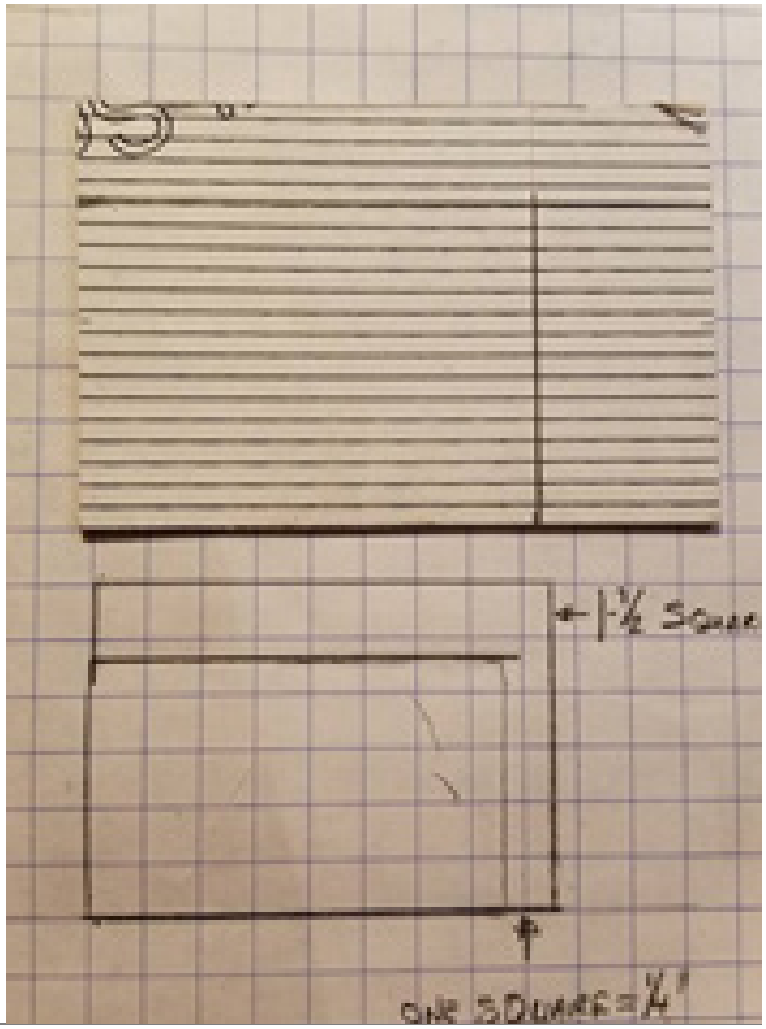
Step 11

Make support brace for the roof. Measure the distance between the two peaks and cut the 8x8 a little long. Sand the ends, test fit and repeat until you have a nice snug fit. Glue in place.

Step 12

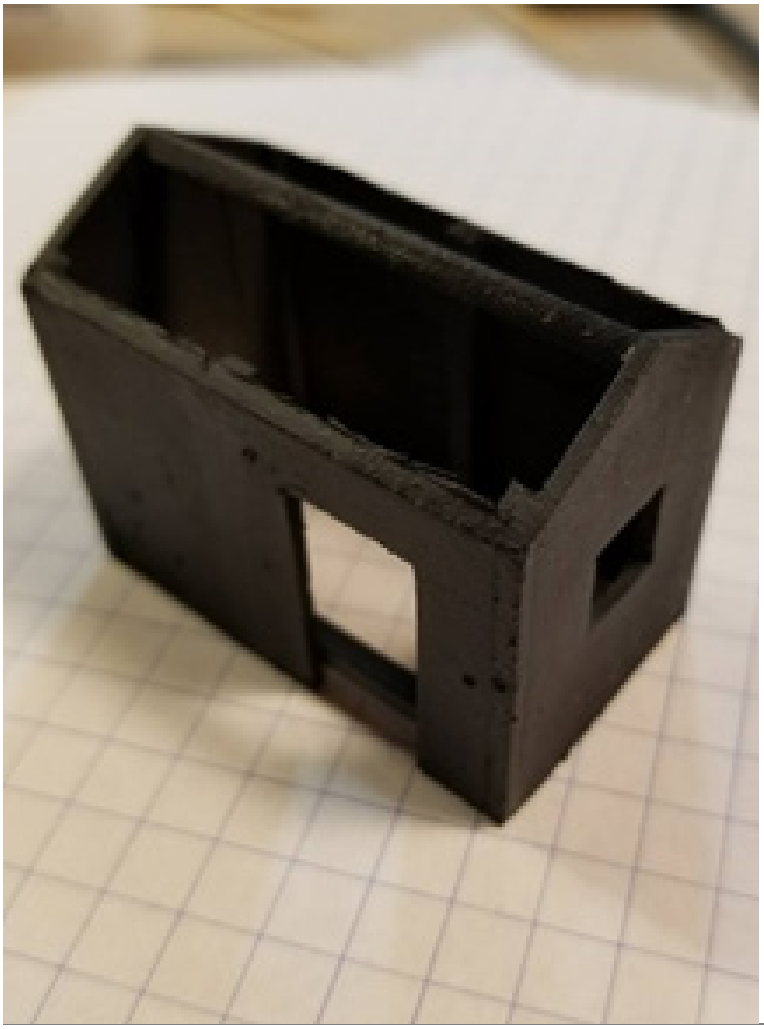
While the structure is drying, put the building on the graph paper and trace the structure lining up one corner with the graph paper. Set your structure aside to dry and we'll work on the roof. From what you just traced, add 1/4" to the length (sides) and add 3/8" to the width (front/back). Cut out the roof and set aside. Cut on the outside of the lines you drew. It's better to have a little extra than not enough.





Step 13

Painting the structure. Before you paint the structure, take your 200 grit paper and go around your structure smoothing down where the corner posts and walls meet so there are no ridges. Go to the paint table in front of the club and spray your structure flat black. Be sure to hold the can at least 12 inches away to help prevent runs in the paint.



Step 14

Now, glue the window and door in place at this time.

Step 15

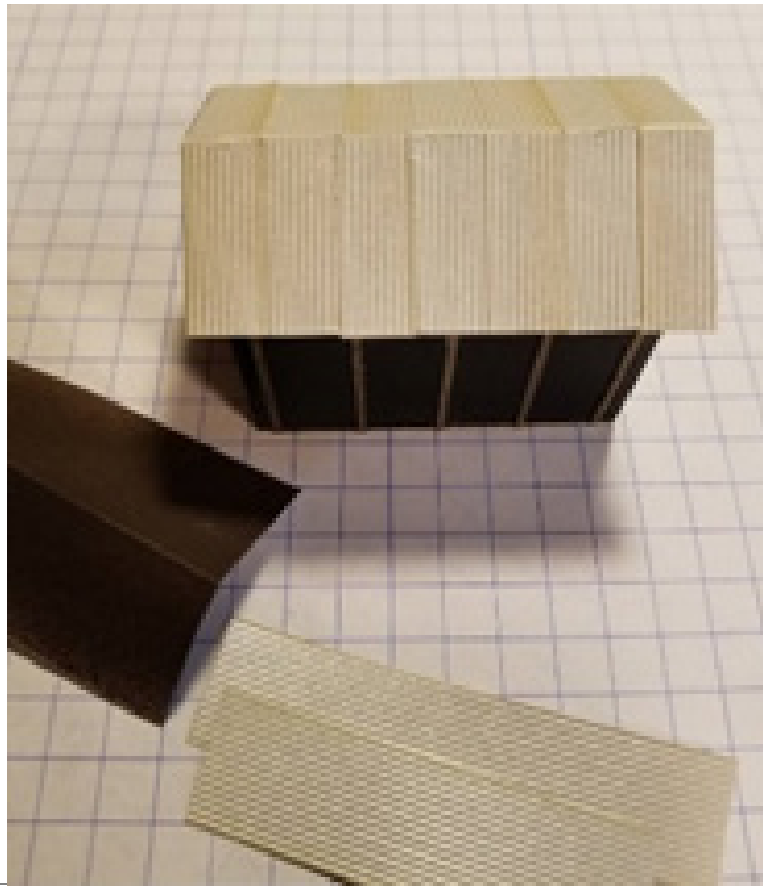
Using the crude ruler guide, mark lines to add battens to the sides of the structure. The ruler guide is the lined cardstock scaled out to HO scale 3 feet on center lines. Measure using the two outside lines as a guide with equal spacing on the left and right. Mark each line with your pencil.

Cut and add the HO scale 1x3 battens. Pick each baton up with your #11 blade and gently run a small amount of Elmer's the length of the batten. Before putting each baton in place dab the glue with a paper towel removing most of the glue (it doesn't take much glue for the baton to stick and glue won't ooze out the sides).

Let dry a couple of minutes and trim away the overhang.

Step 16

Get the roof you cut earlier and find the exact middle (count the number of lines and divide by 2). If you have an odd number divide the space in the middle. Using your scale ruler, score the center line. By "score" you want to cut almost all the way through the card leaving just enough material you can bend it over the peak/ ridge. Before you glue it in place, sand the tops of the front and back walls. You want to bevel them to match the angle of the side walls so the roof will fit snugly. When you're happy with the fit, glue the roof in place by running a small bead of glue around the top of the walls and ridge. Center the roof and hold in place until glue starts to set. (2-3 minutes)



Step 17

Inside your package is a small HO scale 2x2 painted black. Glue the 2x2 into the opening you scored on the ridge. Next, there are three paint pens on the tables, grab one and color the edge of the roof where you cut it. Find the piece of brown envelope that's been painted brown. We'll use this for the ridge cap. Measure down about 1/8" from the fold and cut a nice straight even piece. Next measure the length of the roof (should be around ¾"). The best way for consistency is to build a simple jig using the leftover 8x8. Put down some 2 sided tape on the lines of the graph paper in the shape of an "L". Cut a stopper 8x8 and another 8x8 the length of your roof. Using your #11 blade as a chopper, chop up your roofing into equal pieces (the length of your roof). There is also a wide piece of roofing. Cut to pieces of that to length. Now you want to apply these roof sections a little bit at a time, spread your Elmer's sparingly on the roof card. Start on one end and work toward the other end lay the roofing down where they just overlap the piece next to it. After you have 5 pieces of roofing in place, measure to see if you'll make it to the end. If it looks like you may fall short, trim one of the wider pieces down to make it all fit. When you have all the roofing in place, add the ridge cap, trim to fit and touch up the ends with the paint pen.

Step 18

Add the vent pipe to the backside of the structure. Drill a hole and mix some Elmer's and black paint (like we used last clinic) add a small amount around the bottom of the pipe and slide it into place. The black glue will serve as pitch around the base.

Finished!

And now you have a pump house to go along with your oil tank! ML

Editor's note: See previous issue for how to make the oil tank.

LSR Board Meeting Minutes

Houston, Texas – February 13, 2020

President Chuck Lind called the Annual Board meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

Roll call

All of the officers, directors and committee chairpersons were present except:

Voting Board Members:

Position	Elected Rep	Proxy
Advisor	– Steve Barkley	
At Large	– Blake Bogs	– Jeff Palmer
At Large	– Riley Triggs	
Director	– Mike Mackey	– Jeff Palmer
Director	– Ken Mason	– Gert Muller
Director	– Bob Thiele	
Director	– Dave Lamberts	

Non-voting Board Members:

Membership – Ken Kaiser

Guests in attendance:

Phil Stewart – Division 8 Director Elect
Fred Headon – Canadian NMRA Director

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Jeff Palmer provided a motion and Ray Byer seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as published the Minutes of the June 27, 2019 Annual Board of Directors meeting published in the 2020 Summer issue of The Marker Lamp - designated as 2020-02-13 LSR Motion 1 passed.

Officers Reports

President Chuck Lind

Things in the Lind Household are getting back to somewhat a normal state. Returning from the Narrow Gauge from California made for a great way to end the convention. Scenery through the Sierra Mountains and the Rockies was worth the price of the ticket. You will travel through around 40 tunnels between Denver and Sacramento with the longest being Moffat Tunnel which takes 10 minutes to go through and crosses you under the continental divide.

Since returning have gone through a couple of eye surgeries to repair retina damage in my right eye, so having to type this with one eye.

The convention for 2020 will be in Houston, February 13-15. Yes, I know that is Valentine's Day, but the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club always has their train show on the third Saturday in February so changing the date with the Stafford Center in not an option. They have put together what looks to be a great convention in conjunction with the train show. Attendee's to the convention will get free admission to the train show as well as being let in an hour before the general public. Will this format work? Who knows but we are again thinking outside the box from the usual convention so only time will tell?

It looks like we tentatively have conventions now planned for 2021 and 2022. I will not say anything else to steal Marc's thunder. Marc has been working very hard to get conventions lined up that will not have to include the Dallas/Ft Worth area since they will be hosting the NMRA National Convention in 2023. Marc is still looking for a host for the 2024 convention so Division Directors in some of our other regions it's time to step up.

The Board meeting will be held at 2PM on February 13that the Stafford Center.

Thanks for all of the Board members which has made my job as President a little easier this year. I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and an even Greater New Year!

Vice-President Ray Byer

No matters concerning the LSR have are brought before the Vice President at this time.

Treasurer Gert Muller

2018/2019 :

Beginning Balances (2018/05/01)		
LSR Unrestricted Accounts		$38,677.69
Beginning Total LSR Net Worth	$38,677.69	
Bob Clarke Award Fund	$ 528.86	
Division 2 and 7 Rebates in Escrow		$ 78.50
Delattre Fund		$ 816.00
Bank Saldo		$40,101.05
Proceeds		
Convention		$ 3,504.00
NMRA Rebate		$ 855.00
Total Proceeds	$ 4,359.00	
Disbursements		
NMRA Rebates to Divisions		$ 427.50
Convention Non-rail		$ 740.00
Contest Room Expenses	$ 455.29	
Website Expenses (covering 3 years)		$ 596.14
Total Disbursements	$ 2,218.93	
Net Proceeds-Disbursements		$ 2,140.07
Updates to the Restricted Funds:		
Division 2 Rebate out of Escrow	$ -0.50	
Division 7 Rebate in Escrow		$ 10.50
Division 7 Rebate in Escrow		$ 10.50
		20.50
Ending Balances (2019/04/30)		
LSR Unrestricted Accounts Total	$ 40,817.76	
Total LSR Net Worth		$ 40,817.76
Bob Clarke Award		$ 528.86
Division 5 and 7 Rebates in Escrow		$ 99.00
Delattre Fund		$ 816.00
Bank Saldo		$ 42,261.62

Secretary Jeff Palmer
Since our June 27, 2019 BOD meeting, the LSR Secretary worked with the Nomination Chair, Blake Bogsand now Pete Leach, to hold the 2020LSR Officers election. This is an ongoing process which began shortly after the Annual BOD Meeting in June 2019. The first phase of the process is to identify the candidates, and obtain their profile. This phase just closed on December 1, 2019. The second phase is to turn all of the profiles over to the web chair and the building of the election website - https://geekwithtrains.com which was done. The last phase is to report back to the Nomination Chair with the online results to be merged with the snail mail results.

I have worked with the President to help fill a number of Chair positions.

In each of the months since the BOD meeting, the secretary posted the NMRA Roster Reports.

Currently the secretary is trying to pull together the various reports from the other LSR Officers and Chairs in preparation of the February 13, 2020BOD meeting in Houston. The cooperation of the officers and chairs would be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to the 2020convention.

As covered in the Web chair Report, the LSR Website continues to be stable. I would also like to thank Chris Atkins for allowing the LSR to use the https://geekwithtrains.com
website to hold our elections.

I have given 4clinics to the Division 1 folks so far this year on Scenery and Roads. One last note, please remember in your reporting that education is our prime directive and to hi-lite it where possible in your reporting. I would like to give a special thanks to Blake Bogs and Pete Leach. Pete stepped into the Nomination Chair position mid-election and has been playing catchup. Pete has done an exceptional job and Blake continues to provide insight and help for those tasks turned over to Pete. For the past several months, the LSR and the NMRA have been involved in a war of words. The war began after a number of issues were experienced over hosting the 2023 National Convention and when Mike Mackey was left off of the NMRA WDD election ballot. During this time, there has been an exchange of 6 emails, each series being more direct and to the point than the previous. When all was said and done, the NMRA failed to answer any of the questions asked, and missed represented the known knowledge and facts relevant to the situation. It was a disappointing experience.

Advisor Steve Barkley

No Report

Directors Reports

Division 1 Director Mike Mackey reported:

First off, I'm hoping that everyone had a fantastic Christmas and New Year's celebration! Division 1 held their annual Christmas party on December 14th and had a superb evening. The 47 people in attendance delighted in lots of fun, food, and fellowship. Our gift exchange delivered lots of hijinks as members fought over different prizes that captured their eye.
Division 1 has been especially busy in the past few months with different functions. Our October meeting gave us a great presentation on "Mail Trains" by Jim Ogden which was extremely informative. We moved our November meeting from our usual second Saturday of the month to the first Saturday due to the Union Pacific Big Boy 4014 tour through Texas. Unfortunately, this meeting move conflicted with the tri-annual hosting of the DFW interchange operations sessions. Despite the conflict we still had over 40 member enjoy the first in a series of four clinics on building roads, hosted by Jeff Palmer.

On the next Saturday, November 9th, we gathered at 8:30 at the Texas Western Model Railroad Club to depart to Buffalo, Texas to watch the largest steam engine in the world, UP 4014 make her appearance and tie up in Palestine, Texas. Twelve car loads of railfans made the trip. Thanks to UP employee and Division 1 member Eric Lewis, we had some prime viewing locations that provided some fantastic shots and video which were not marred by other spectators. Thanks again Eric!

The start of December saw our members hard at work helping another division with a membership drive. As many of you

already know, the Oklahoma City Train Show is traditionally held the first weekend of December. The local NMRA division, The Oklahoma Heartland Division, has not had a presence at the show for over 5 years. This small division of less than 10 members has been struggling to get things going to say the least. After learning of the situation, Division 1 members helped to organize a booth at the show. With the help of some Division 3 members, Division 1 manned the booth to spread the word about the NMRA. Which brings us back to the division Christmas Party on the next weekend.

2020 promises to be another banner year for Division 1. We already have our schedule of meetings filled for the year which will include everything from a demonstration of how to scratch build N scale bicyclists to enjoying a live steam presentation. We also have a couple of make and take clinics sprinkled in along the way. For a complete list of meeting topics, please visit our division website at www.cowcatcherdivision.org.

Division 2 Director Ken Mason reported:

> Division 2 is continuing with operations at the Mid-South Club in Baton Rouge and the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in the New Orleans Area. I have not heard of any other operations taking place in our area.
>
> Mid-South hosted open house dates in October and the CCMRC is gearing up for their open house season starting in late November and running through early January, 2020.
>
> Our area TCA group once again hosted the Ponchatoula Train Show on November 2 and was well attended with many operating layouts and plenty of vendors with items for sale.
>
> We are also gearing up for our Division 2 Train Day at the Library to be held on April 25, 2020 at the East Bank Regional Library in Metairie, Louisiana. This will be the first train sow of any kind in our area in a very long while beside the open house dates that have been hosted by the CCMRC for the last few years. We already have commitments from the Crescent City S-Gaugers, who have a large 20 x 25 foot "S"scale modular layout, The CCMRC with their growing modular layout, Operation Lifesaver, the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders, the Louisiana Train Collectors Association and the Santa Fe Historical & Modeling Society. I am hoping to recruit a few more attendees and get a few more smaller running layouts to attend to make a good showing at the library and in this area to promote the hobby of model railroading and railroad safety.
>
> Finally, it seems that membership in Division 2 is holding pretty steady with 107 members for the past 3 months and is up from 105 back in July. Hopefully we can continue this trend of small growth and not lose any members.
>
> That's it from Division 2 this time. Looking forward to the convention in the Houston area in February.

Division 3 Director Donna Orr reported that:

> In August, our 4 Youth that were awarded the LSR Youth awards were recognized at this meeting so our members that were not able to attend the convention would see the talent that we have in our young members. Kathryn Moore and Nathan Finley brought in their TTrak modules for us to see.
>
> With a packed house we had our clinic on Modeling water. We discussed all the various products out there and gave pros & cons for each as well as several techniques for making that lake, river, pond, ocean, waterfall or just a plain watering hole look great..
>
> At our September meeting, we had a great clinic on "LED Street Lights" by Vance Nurmi. Vance worked hard on developing a clinic so we could follow his techniques and build some for our own layouts in several different styles and in any scale you need.
>
> At our October Thomas Stephens shared his clubs experience of moving their entire layout to a new location. And this was not just once, but twice in a very short period of time.

Over this quarter we had several interesting show and tell projects. Here are a few pictures of those projects..

And we also had two AP awards, Official went to Marc LaChey and Melvin Richards received Chief Dispatcher.
Hope you all had a Happy Halloween and are looking forward to a great Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday season.

Division 4 Director Bob Thiele reported:

The Division has gathered three times during the second half of the year. In the July meeting the members conducted a series of mini clinics. The meeting started off with George Hollwedel demonstrating an interesting way to ballast switches. It is a simple technique and reduces the mess of ballasting. Using a tape underneath the switch, the ballasting mess is reduced greatly. Steve Tomczek and myself have been talking about initiating the MMR mentoring program. Steve put together a good presentation about the MMR achievement program and the necessary step involved. John Ames present new ideas on how to secure track work at critical points in your layout. Jesse Hoover demonstrate railroad computer simulations on how to build and operate virtual layout.

During the September division meeting we had two mini clinics on structure building. Two members discussed the methods of construction using wood and plastic. The director explained to the membership the plans to implement the Division into a non profit organization. In the near future a new website will be developed with the goal of better communication between the membership. A new Division logo was created and approved by the members. With the 501c3 status, I hope to create benefits that will enhance the Divisions ability to promote the NMRA message.

The November meeting presented a hands-on clinic. Members brought the necessary tools to work with plastics. Sheets of styrene, windows and doors where pass out to the members. Their task was to design, cut and assemble a building with material present. They where to take them home and finish their product.

The Austin Model Railroad Society, and organization made up of division members, set up and operated their Modular layout at a local church. On Friday December 5th the layout was open to the local schools to expose the children to the world of model railroad. After Breakfast with Santa on Saturday the layout out was open to the public with 250 plus visitors.

Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts reported:

December was a busy month for the Lubbock Model Railroad Association (LMRA). We hold our monthly meetings in a Lutheran church and each year the church asks us to set up our modules for a Christmas program. Since the church does not charge us monthly rent, we always say yes.

The following week the Lubbock Science Spectrum also wanted to set up a display for two weeks before and after Christmas. The set up brought in several hundred people which the administration of the Science Spectrum loved.

What has proved to be popular with the attendees are the so-called T-Track modules. They are approximately two feet by two feet (single), although it is also possible to construct a double or triple. The modules are highly standardized so that they may locked together for display. They don't need feet since they are constructed to set on table tops. I have the LMRA plan specification if anyone is interested let me know.

.

Division 6 Don Winn reported:

Although I usually don't like too much momentum in locomotives, momentum is continuing to build in the South Texas Division, and that's a good thing!

The South Texas Railroad Socials (http://www.southtexasrr.com/) continue to draw around 40 participants at our quarterly events. During the NMRA Update segment of the socials, we are raising awareness and interest in the AP program; encouraging members to bring their models for judging.
Members presented a number of clinics during the past 6 months (see Education Report), including a hands-on clinic to make Fast Track turnouts.

The fall New Braunfels Train Show was well attended as always, and provided an opportunity for members to chat about where we are going with the hobby.

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell reported:

Bit late, but Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. I hope that everyone's holidays were filled with...trains!

It has been pretty quiet in this area. Of course, we did have a visit from 4014 back in November there at the old Marshall, Texas depot. It was a lot of fun, and did see a good number of LSR members from all over North Texas and Louisiana. It is one massive engine.

The ArkLaTex Modular Club did their usual two week at the Shrine Hospital for the holidays. To see the look on these kids' faces as they watch the trains travel around the layout is really something! To be in various casts, many times multiple casts, and be able to smile and laugh as the trains run by, well…. Congrats to the ArkLaTex crew!

The Kansas City Southern's Holiday Express had another great year. They donated over $170,000.00 to the Salvation Army at this year's 20 towns and cities. They had 67,500 visitors over those 25 days, which is an average of 2700+ visitors per night! This year saw 12 stops in Louisiana, from LaPlace to Lake Charles to Shreveport. Bout the only part of the state that we missed was North Eastern Louisiana, not enough days between Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Another fun year.

On the train show schedule, we have Tyler coming in March this year and Jefferson in it's usual May time frame.

I am trying to schedule a half-day tree making clinic sometime in the March/April time frame. If we work things out, I will post it to the website.

Division 8 Director Jim Lemmond reported:

Division 8 Annual Meeting

The Division 8 Annual Picnic and Meeting was held on September 28, 2019, at Zube Park in Northwest Harris County. The Division held its election of Division Officers during the picnic.
James Kelly was elected Division President.
Chuck Lind was elected Division Vice-president.
Ray Byer was elected Secretary.
Tom Marsh was re-elected Treasurer for the Division.

LSR Convention 2020

web page: http://www.turbotrains.com/sunset2020/
The 2020 LSR Convention is moving ahead as planned. The web site is operational for hotel information, registration and clinic schedules. LSR registrants will have the free entrance into the Greater Houston Train Show on Saturday, February 15, 2020, with one-hour early entrance.
Remember LSR Youth Award nominations are due to the Division Directors by November 1, 2019.

The LSR Contest information is available on the 2020 Convention web page.

Upcoming Events in Division 8 for 2020.

Division 8 has a complete schedule of monthly clinics and workshops for 2020. All model railroaders are wel-

come to attend and participate. All events are held at the Bayland Center. 6400 Bissonnet, Houston. 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They are as follows:

January 25th -- Gas station (Chuck) + Prejudging model / paperwork for contest
February 1st -- Prejudging model / paperwork for contest (Ray)
March 21st -- Scenery (Loren)
April 18th -- Intro to PanelPro (Jim)
May 16th -- Track Laying & Turnout wiring (TBD)
June 13th -- LED Lighting (TBD)
July 11th -- Keep Alives (Blake)
August 8th -- Passenger car detailing (TBD)
September 19th -- Block detection (TBD)
October 10th-- Soldering (TBD)
November 21st & December 12th -- Make & Take (TBD)

Annual Houston Area Layout Tour

The Houston Area Layout Tour begins on November 1, 2019 and last through December 14, 2019. The Tour guide for each week is available on the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club web page and is updated weekly. A special feature is an operating layout built and run by Hogg Intermediate School students and their sponsor JayC Williams.

San Jacinto Model Railroad Club web page: http://sanjacmodeltrains.org/Fall-Layout-Tour.html

Division 8 Clinic on Programming DCC Decoders

Programming a DCC locomotive with a MRC Programmer

Director-At-Large Marc LaChey reported:

As a Director at Large, I have the luxury of not being confined to updating the region on the activities of a specific Division. So, for this report, I will share with you the benefit of visiting prototype museums and railroads as a means to inspire and enhance your modeling.

We all know the adage that a photo tells a thousand words. But have you heard that going out and seeing something in person beats just one photograph? (I just made this up). My point is that getting out in the field and studying a subject live and in person can't be beat for improving your modeling.

For example, last summer I visited the Laws Railroad Museum in Bishop, California. Up until this visit, I had never seen a gallows turntable before except in photos or drawings. The museum has a gallows turntable still in operation. I took a number of photos wile I studied the details of the turntable up close and personal. Even better, I got to see the turntable in operation as Duane Richardson, Steele Craver and Jeff Palmer supplied the manpower to give the turntable a twirl. The next day, we stopped by the Nevada State Railroad Museum. They also had a gallows turntable. And once again I took a number of detail photos that you don't normally see in books. So now I am ready to model a gallows turntable.

Next summer, the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad will be celebrating their 50th year of operations. The C&TSRR will have a number of special activities occurring during their season. One of which will be a gathering 19th century wood burning steam engines. So, if you have any interest in seeing first-hand the operation of wood burning engine, here is your chance!

Last, it was my intent not to stand for another election as Director at Large. After two terms, I thought it was time to

step aside and allow someone else to hold this office. As the time for nominations for next year's slate of board members came to close, Jeff Palmer called and asked me to run for another term. Seems the nominating committee was having a hard time finding candidates for this At Large position. So, I agreed to stand for election for another term.

Director-At-Large Blake Bogs reported:

It has been a successful six months for my Director at Large Position.
Marker Lamp- See my Director at Large article in the Marker Lamp
Nomination- Officially resigned in October 2019. Found about half of the candidates before this date.
Clinic's given: LSR Convention: June 2019 (150 years and counting- The Golden Spike and Choosing a sound decoder)
Division 8 meeting: July 2019 (Choosing a sound decoder)
Volunteered- Tomball German Fest/ Other weekends. Once again have been running the O gauge layout.

Director-At-Large Riley Triggs:

The CenTex Division's 100% NMRA club, the Austin Model Railway Society (AMRS), is continuing its mission to educate the public about railroad activities in general and specifically the history of the railroads in around Central Texas. We have been and will continue to display monthly in 2020 at Lifeworks Austin, a non-profit that is a fearless advocate for youth and families seeking their path to self-sufficiency. We have several casual visitors during these events, and our plans are to provide organized opportunities for engagement with youth in their programs to learn about model and prototype railroading, and to become involve in a constructive hobby as part of their journey towards a better life.

The Austin Area Train Show will be in Taylor, Tx again the first weekend in May, and the host 100% NMRA Austin Model Railway Society's modular layout will be displayed and operated for the public. Other modular clubs participating were the Tinplate Trackers, the Texas Brick Railroad, the AusNTrak, and the Hill Country Outlaws. Club and CenTex Division members also support the volunteer efforts for putting on the show, which is its third year in Taylor. There are plans to move the show to Austin's Palmer auditorium to increase attendance and vendor space.

The search for more members and a more permanent home is under way to solidify the club and its activities. The goal is for the club to be a public outreach and education component supporting the efforts of the CenTex Division and LSR. Many of the club members are active in all the activities in the area.

Department Reports

Achievement Chair Duane Richardson reported:

Now that the AP Submissions deadline has passed for January here is the AP report. It's a small list but we are also several months earlier than usual.

Name	Date	Certificate	LSR Certificate Number
Rod Fredricks	Jul-19	Official	794
Marc LaChey	Jul-19	Official	795
Melvin Richards	Jul-19	Chief Dispatcher	796
Tom Greco	Jul-19	Motive Power	797
** Returned, missed a requirement			798
Randal Wilson	Sep-19	Volunteer	799
Pete Leach	Dec-19	Civil	800
Pete Leach	Dec-19	Electrical	801
Pete Leach	Dec-19	Scenery	802
		MMR # 649	803

Contest Chair Ray Byer reported:

As of January 3, 2020 all of the Contest Plaques have been made for the LSR Contest 2020 in Houston, Texas Feb13-15th 2020. We are checking on some outstanding items and printing for the contest voting. Should have that cleared up by the end of the month.

After this convention all supplies will be used up, we will need to look at changing the awards that we give out to reduce the cost or Keep the current awards process with a raise to the budget to cover the cost increase of supplies. The cost increase is from wood to make the plaques, ribbons for future city convention due to the lack future city signup, not being able to order a large amount to reduce the overall cost ribbons. This will need to be talk about at the next Broad meeting.

Convention Chair Marc LaChey reported:

Following a referral from our President, Chuck Lind, I have had some very preliminary emails and calls with the President of the Mid-Continent Region, Brad Slone, regarding a joint convention between the LSR and MCoR. Initial conversations are for a convention to be held in Tulsa, OK in June 2021. More details to be developed. But this is very encouraging news.

Even better, we have word from Bob Thiele of Division 4, that Division 4 is prepared to host the LSR convention in 2022! Again, I expect more details to be available after the winter board meeting in Houston in February.

So, it now appears we have conventions set for 2021, 2022 and the NMRA National in 2023.

Education Chair, John Cootz: No Report

Events Chair, Bill Dryden reported:

We are gaining ground as more folks are sending in notices for up-coming events, though I am still getting some notices few days or so after I have submitted the column. There have been several folks who have called, following up with e-mails with more details.

One of my better sources has dropped off the web; some notifications I had received only through that source may be lost. If there are upcoming events that members are aware of occurring, please let me know.

Anyone having events to be published, please send me the details:
bdr149@airmail.net

A reminder to all:

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Historian Chair Bob Barnett: No Report

Membership Chair Ken Kaiser reports:

BOARD MEMBERSHIP REPORT 12 based on the Jan. (1,022) to Dec (949) membership reports. LSR membership decrease by 73 members. Dec. membership decreased by four. Seven out of 8 divisions lost members.
Breakdown by Div. follows:

	JAN	DEC	gain/loss
Div. 1	175	163	-12
Div. 2	109	107	-02
Div. 3	201	180	-21
Div. 4	150	136	-14
Div. 5	28	26	-02

Div. 6	90	86	-04
Div. 7	24	27	+03
Div. 8	245	224	-21
LSR	1,022	949	-73

Nominating Chair Pete Leach reported:

This is my first report since taking over for Blake Bogs. He has been a great asset to the LSR, Division, and to me especially. I will continue to ask him for guidance as needed. I join the rest of the LSR members in thanking Blake for his leadership.

A meeting of the Nominating Committee was held via teleconference on Sep 27, 2019 to discuss how to address the request from a minor to run for Director-at-Large office. It was clear the this would be an issue because of our IRS status. Chuck Lind and Jeff Palmer are to discuss with the rest of the Board of Directors.

Thanks to Jeff Palmer, we were able to fill in the openings with nominees for the 2020 elections. The open positions for 2020 and the candidates are:

- Vice President - Ray Byers from Div 8 is running unopposed
- Secretary - Jeff Palmer from Div 3 is running unopposed
- Div 2 Director - Ken Mason is running unopposed
- Div 4 Director - Bob Thiele is running unopposed
- Div 6 Director - Don Winn is running unopposed
- Div 8 Director - Phil Steward is running unopposed
- Director at Large – Darrell Cowles from Div 1 is running unopposed
- Director at Large – Marc LaChey from Div 3 is running unopposed
- Director at Large – Pete Leach from Div 8 is running unopposed

This is my first time involved in the process, but I hope to encourage more folks to run for office in future elections. It is important to attract new folks to the board to bring new ideas AND relieve the burden of leadership to those who've done their fair share.

Personally, I am excited to join the board and help give back to all those who've helped me in my brief time with the organization. It has been a great year for me that culminated with the completion of my last 3 AP certificates that allowed me to qualify for my MMR. Thanks to Chuck Lind and Loren Neufeld for taking an afternoon away from their families to evaluate the results of my efforts on Scenery, Civil, and Electrical. And thanks to Duane Richardson for expediting the process and forwarding the documents to National. I received a call from my friend, Pete Magoun, 3 days before Christmas advising me that my paperwork was approved and I was now MMR® # 649! It was a very nice Christmas!

Non-Rail Virginia Feritag: No Report.

Publications Chair Riley Triggs:

The Marker Lamp is on schedule at the moment.

The emphasis continues to be on the regular column contributors providing a strong base of material. Donna Orr, Gert "Speed" Muller and Blake Bogs are doing a tremendous job at producing interesting, informative and educational material for our membership. There are also several good one-off articles that are starting to happen as people engage with the AP Certificate program pursuing their Author certificates.

I would like to bring focus on the rest of the chair and directors in the region who have not been submitting reports. Each position should have something to say about their activities, the hobby, or the way they are engaging with the model railroading community as an elected or appointed member in support of the LSR's mission.

Areas to address
Advertising in Pike and Dealer ads still need attention. There has been some interest in upgrading ads to color, but no new pike nor dealers are participating. There has been no particular effort to acquire new ads this year, but this is an ongoing situation.

Long term projects update
Major projects are on hold to gather time and resources to accomplish them.

Website Chair Jeff Palmer reported that:

Our service provider, Host Gator, continues to provide an excellent service. Renewal for the next three years comes due 1/1/2020. The total cost for the services is $596.14. That cost includes the code backup function, Drupal is a SQL database and code cannot be backed up using normal backup utilities, and Intrusion detection and prevention. It's been three years since the old LSR website was hacked.

The election website www.geekwithtrains.com has served us well in the past and is being updated for the 2020 election. The site will set to open the election at 12:01 AM on the first of March and shutdown at 12:00 PM on March 30, 2019.

As to the Officer's Page, use the link at the bottom of the LSR Officer's page or the URL - http://www.lonestarregion.com/node/7. Please remember, right now security is by obscurity or the general lack of availability of the material. No logon required. Don't share.

Over the past 6 months, 33 LSR emailing's have gone out, The volume will continue in support of the upcoming 2020 Convention.

Normal activity continues, as the posting of reports, motions, and emailing for the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Youth Chair, Jim Lemmond reported:

Division 4

I, Robert Thiele, Director of Division Four, LSR region of the NMRA, would like to nominate Hunter Stuart for the 2020 Youth Scholarship. Hunter has been a member of the BCSMRRS for three years. At the present tie Hunter is attending Blinn College in Bryan Texas.
Hunter has learned many skills during his time with the club, including tracklaying and ballasting, different methods of creating scenery, and creating trees from sagebrush armatures. He enjoys painting, so he is currently in charge of painting backdrops for recently rebuilt sections of the layout. One of the rebuilds includes a need for a number of storefront buildings, so he is learning the art of kit bashing buildings to fit the available space and need. His future plans include learning about the electronics of the layout and how to install DCC decoders into locomotives.
Hunter attended the LSR Regional Meeting at Frisco and enjoyed the various clinics, and wishes to continue to do so in the future.

Division 6

The Texas Western Model Railroad Club would like to nominate Lance Halderman for the annual NMRA youth scholarship. Lance is the son of Rebecca Halderman member and secretary for SAMRA (the San Antonio Model Railroad Association) located in Live Oak Texas. Lance is a fan of HO Scale and has had a total of 3 scales running on 1 layout at one time, N scale, HO scale and O gauge which proposed a challenge however he made it work. Lance is currently working on his 3rd layout which is strictly HO Scale as that is the scale he has fallen in love with.

Lance joined SAMRA with the objective of learning more about the hobby that he has loved since he was a year old and he is now 15. Lance has actively participated in operating sessions, however prefers the weekly "Fun Runs" as they

are not as structured. Lance enjoys the volunteer opportunities at the museum and enjoys taking visitors on tours of the layout and showing them how the trains work as they cross through the towns. Not only does he enjoy the museum he also enjoys the volunteer opportunities that SAMRA provides in the community and as participated in events such as National Night Out for 2 years and the Night in Old Converse Parade.

Most recently in May of this year, Lance and his mother joined in the "Great Chase to Ogden" for the 150th Golden Spike of the 4014 Big Boy and The Living Legend 844 double heading from Cheyanne, WY to Rawlins, WY where they chased the Big Boy for 4 whistle stops, and headed back home to San Antonio, TX from Rawlins, WY, as the Big Boy headed on the remainder of her journey.

Division 8

NMRA member Donald Hand, and the Houston S Gaugers club, enthusiastically nominate Asher Murray for the annual LSR Youth Award. Asher, the grandson of HSG member Fred "Rusty" Paulus, began his journey toward the Achievement Program at age 4, when he tagged along with his granddad to Houston area train shows at which the Houston S Gaugers set-up and ran their modular layout.
Soon, Asher was learning to run granddad's trains; and Asher then corralled some of granddad's older, less-detailed, cars and assembled his own highly imaginative consists. From that beginning, Asher has developed skills essential to modular set-up and take-down; starting as the "legs collecting" person, in time also becoming the "tree planting" person, and now is an assistant to our "DCC guru". As an example, at one area train show a vendor sought out granddad, to tell him how amazed he was to see a youngster willingly pitching in to perform member-level tasks.

Today, at age 12, Asher is a fully qualified operator, focused on the skills by which operators share space on mainline tracks, cycling trains in both directions. He has been especially helpful among youngsters visiting our layout; introducing them to the concepts on which model railroading is built, and that "Model Railroading is fun"!

Although he started with his granddad's S scale, Asher has become a full-fledged HO modeler in his own right; assembling a collection of rolling stock, and building a bedroom layout by himself, to share with friends and his younger sister. He has also built well-conceived and convincing models using Lego-brick components.

We sincerely believe that the nomination of Asher Murray reflects the spirit of the annual LSR Youth Award. His enthusiasm for the hobby, capacity to learn and grow, and outreach to other youth, are the hallmarks that distinguish Asher Murray as a candidate for the 2019 Youth Award.

OLD BUSINESS

Chuck Lind open old business by giving his thanks for the continued efforts of all on the board. He introduced our distinguished guest from Canada Fred Headon. Fred briefly introduced himself and acknowledged what brought him to Houston, an educational program using model railroading as a tool.

Gert Muller provided a budget report for the 2019/2020 fiscal year to date:

Budget										
Lone Star Region										
	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	
Note: All fiscal years are from May 1st through April 30th	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014- 2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Approved	Actual
INCOME										
Ad, Dealer, Marker Lamp	$0.00	$20.00	$0.00	$40.00	$73.00	$0.00	$40.00	$0.00	$20.00	$0.00
Ad, Pike, Marker Lamp	$344.00	$152.00	$364.00	$243.00	$164.00	$164.00	$112.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Conv 2011 Income, Lubbock	$905.81									
Additional 2011 payment after fiscal year	$134.27									
Conv 2011 Repay Loan, Lubbock	$1,000.00									
Conv 2012 Proceeds Gulf Coast		$3,697.67								
Conv 2013 Repay Loan, DFW			$2,000.00							
Conv 2013 Proceeds, DFW			$8,331.27							
Conv 2014 Proceeds, Round Rock				$3,653.11						
Conv 2014 Repay Loan, Round Rock				$2,000.00						
Conv 2015 Repay Loan, Beaumont					-$2,000.00					
Conv 2015 Proceeds, Beaumont					-$500.00					
Conv 2016 Repay Loan, DFW					$2,000.00	$2,000.00				
Conv 2016 Proceeds, DFW						$516.00				
Conv 2017 Proceeds, Houston							$226.00			
Conv 2018 Proceeds, Round Rock								$2,465.53		
Conv 2019 Proceeds, Frisco									$1,000.00	$3,504.00
Conv 2020 Proceeds, Houston										
Dues										
NMRA Rebate	$1,945.00	$1,990.00	$1,929.00	$1,919.00	$1,916.00	$1,919.00	$1,848.00	$1,780.00	$1,700.00	$855.00
Subscriptions										
Dues, Rebate, Subscriptions Total	$1,945.00	$1,990.00	$1,929.00	$1,919.00	$1,916.00	$1,919.00	$1,848.00	$1,780.00		
Interest Earned CD Fund	$8.45	$6.24	$3.95	$2.64	$35.46	$40.06				
Interest From Conv Fund	$3.45	$2.69	$1.92	$0.97	$26.00	$19.92				
Patches and Decals	$8.00		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00				
MSSB Interest							$93.31			
Amazon Smile							$5.00		$5.00	$0.00
Transfer from Savings										
TOTAL INCOME	$4,346.98	$5,868.60	$12,630.14	$7,856.12	$1,655.06	$4,656.98	$2,324.31	$4,245.53	$2,725.00	$4,359.00

	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	
Note: All fiscal years are from May 1 through April 30	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	
EXPENSES									Approved	Actual
Achievement-LSR Program	$90.95	$7.51	$227.41	$30.54	$0.00	$100.00	$0.00	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00
Board Meeting		$207.53	$163.94	$312.92	$0.00	$0.00	$81.39	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00
Mid-Year Meeting Expense				$0.00	$174.68	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00
Contest-Convention	$430.52	$423.52	$134.49	$1,165.69	$905.04	$226.50	$362.77	$599.26	$430.00	$455.29
~~Contest~~-Convention, non rail			$0.00	$0.00	$500.00	$0.00	$214.69	$500.00	$500.00	$740.00
Conv 2012 Advance to Houston	$0.00		$0.00	$0.00						
Conv 2013 Advance to DFW	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	$0.00	$0.00						
Conv 2014 Advance to RR		$500.00	$1,500.00	$0.00						
Conv 2015 Advance to Beaumont				$2,000.00	$2,000.00					
Conv 2015 loss of Beaumont convention					$500.00					
Conv 2016 Advance to DFW				$2,000.00	$2,000.00					
Convention General Expense (1)				$0.00						
501C3 IRS Expense				$400.00						
NMRA Rebate to divisions						$954.25	$1,149.00	$890.00	$650.00	$427.50
Election-Expenses			$1,953.82	$1,242.21	$240.95	$57.36	$86.01	$194.32	$100.00	$0.00
Historian Expenses	$116.55		$38.97	$0.00	$15.16	$0.00	$38.97	$0.00	$30.00	$0.00
Membership		$202.46	$0.00	$80.00	$0.00	$0.00				
President-Office Expenses	$133.01		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$15.00	$0.00
Secretary Exp. & Postage	$32.72		$45.00	$65.77	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Treasurer Exp. & Postage					$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$25.00	$0.00
Marker Lamp Print & Mail	$5,243.88	$5,128.18	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00				
Sign and Print for Events								$80.00	$25.00	$0.00
Audio/visual					$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,566.77	$50.00	$0.00
Memorial Denotations	$99.58	$150.00	$0.00	$47.00	$0.00	$0.00	$75.00	$200.00	$50.00	$0.00
Web Site	$59.00	$59.50	$59.50	$0.00	$0.00	$269.00	$50.52	$50.52	$110.00	$390.14
Bank Costs							$26.00	$21.00	$30.00	$0.00
Youth Program	$140.00	$32.00	$20.00	$0.00	$32.00	$0.00	$221.00	$300.00	$300.00	$0.00
Youth Chairman				$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	$7,354.81	$7,710.72	$4,171.22	$7,364.13	$6,367.83	$1,609.71	$2,325.35	$4,461.89	$2,725.00	$2,218.93
NET (INCOME-EXPENSES)	-$3,005.83	-$1,841.92	$8,478.92	$493.99	-$4,712.77	$3,049.27	-$1.04	-$216.36	$0.00	$2,140.07

Donna Orr briefly provided the status of the 2023 National Convention, which stated that everything was waiting on the NMRA to get their act together. No questions were asked.

NEW BUSINESS

The first item of new business was a discussion of youth, someone under the age of 18, serving on the BOD. While this has not been an issue in the past, this past election, a father volunteered his son to run for office. This nomination opened several concerns, the first being the legal aspect of someone under the age of majority in the state of Texas serving on a 501(c)(3). In Texas, someone under the age of majority can not sign a contract, and can not be legally bound to a contract. The current LSR Constitution does not have a provision for someone under the age of majority to serve – each elected officer shares equal responsibility for the LSR and any contracts that might be signed. Needless to say, none of this changes with Louisiana and Parish law. As this conversation wound down, is was determined that no one under the age of 18 would be allowed to serve on the board, but the discussion turned to whether the age to serve on the board should be 18 or 21. While 18 is the age of legal majority in Texas and Louisiana, many on the board felt that there was a level of maturity no present in most 18 year olds

– lack of real world experience. The room was evenly divided on this topic. After about 30 minutes of discussion, the topic was tabled. Motion 2 failed.

Youth Awards was the next topic of business. In January, the BOD conducted an email he ballot for the youth awards since the normal flow of activity was being changed. –normally, the youth awards nominees are presented at the Mid-Year BOD meeting and awarded at the summer convention, but this year, the process was altered to support the Houston convention in February.

The email ballot approved Asher Murray, Hunter Stewart, and Lance Halderman. Motion 3 – Youth Awards proposed by Jim Lemmond and 2nd by Jeff Palmer passed. The awards were presented at the Awards Ceremony.

The third topic for discussion was the use of mailing lists, of more specifically, the NMRA Quarterly Roster and the 30/60 Day Past Due Reports. Eight years ago, the LSR setup that the LSR Secretary can receive these reports from the NMRA and distribute to each of the Division Directors a copy of the reports to help manage each division's membership. Eighteen months ago, the Membership Chair got approved that each division needs a Membership person who has the responsibility of checking members with expiring memberships. To facilitate this activity, it was determined that the Division Director can provide the membership person for that division, membership information, and that the ultimate responsibility for that information still resides with the Division Director. No motion was associated with this discussion.

The next topic was about Officer and Chair vacancies. It is the prerogative of the LSR President to appoint replacements for these positions, but the question that needs to be addressed is, "Are these positions still necessary?" At the present time, it was the consensus of the board to leave these positions vacant, but not due away them. No motion was associated with this discussion.

The fifth topic for discussion, was about insurance for the BOD. In the state of Texas, a 501(c)(3) can not be sued, or should I say, it is difficult to sue a 501(c)(3), but the officers can be sued individually. Would it be in the best interest of the LSR to get insurance for the BOD members to protect them from frivolous law suits? Donna Orr pointed out that many HOAs have such insurance and it is fairly inexpensive. A point for future consideration. No motion was associated with this discussion.

Next up was a discussion about the Contest Room by Ray Byer. The board was enlightened about the expense of the con test room:

Each Plaque costs about $26.24
Each Ribbon costs about $5.25

Each convention gives out about 33 plaques and 57 ribbons. Ray informed the BOD that the current lot of plaques is exhausted, and we are in need of printing additional ribbons.
No motion was associated with this discussion.

Donna Orr presented the final numbers for the 2019 LSR Convention. The check had already been given to the LSR Treasurer, Gert Muller, for $3,504.00; the LSR profits for the convention. Each of the hosting Divisions, 1 and 3, have also received their profits from the convention. The 2019 convention was successful in every sense, attendance, financial, education, and fellowship. It was a joy to attend. The books are closed on the 2019 convention. Thank you Donna.

Bob Barnett briefly let us know, all was ready for the 2020 LSR Convention. Prepare to have a good time.

Marc LaChey presented the information about the 2021 LSR Convention to be held in Tulsa, OK. It will be a joint convention with the Mid-Continents Region and the money sharing will be passed on attendance; i.e. 25 LSR members, out of 100 total attendance will yield a 25% share of the profits. Work assignments, and other duties are currently being negotiated. To proceed Marc presented Motion 4, which was 2nd by Ray Byer. After discussion, the motion passed.

Prior to the BOD meeting, Robert Thiele submitted a request to host the LSR 2022 Convention. Robert was delayed getting to the board meeting but his request was presented to the board as Motion 5 by Marc LaChey and 2nd by Jeff Palmer. After a brief discussion, the motion passed.

Chuck Lind closed the meeting at 4:17 PM

Quit'n Time

By Riley Triggs

2020

AUSTIN AREA TRAIN SHOW

Saturday May 2 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday May 3 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Williamson County Expo Center
5350 Bill Pickett Trail - Taylor, Texas
Just minutes past the Dell Diamond!

Enjoy over 16,000 square feet of model railroading!
Operating Model and Lego Railroads • All Scales • Dozens of Vendors • Buy and Sell
Raffle • Self-Guided Area Layout Tour • Concessions • Free Parking

Admission $7

Children 12 and under FREE with adult • Admission includes both days

AMRS EST 2017

For more information, check out **austintrainshow.org**
Sponsored by the Austin Model Railway Society

You are Cordially Invited to the First Ever

Red River Railway Prototype Modelers Meet

Modular Layouts, Craftsman Displays, Clinics, Manufacturers & Layout Tours

For the modelers who recreate the prototype

Bring your favorite railroad models to display

Saturday, June 27, 2020 **10:00 AM-6:00 PM**	**Forest Hill Civic Center** **6901 Wichita Street** **Forest Hill, TX**

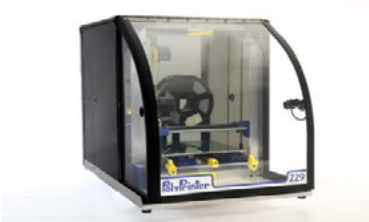
Admission $20

Presented by the Texas Railway Modeling & Historical Society,

And the Cowcatcher Division of the National Model Railroad Association

TRMHS.org

Facebook: Red River Railway Prototype Modelers Meet



Sponsored in part by PolyPrinter
Polyprinter.org

Featured Vendors

NOW AVAILABLE!

Color

Pike and Dealer Ads

Pike and dealer ads are now available in color for the same price! Share your railroad or advertise your business to others while supporting the Lone Star Region.

- **Do you have a herald for your railroad?**
- **Is there a unique feature?**
- **What is the name of your hotshot freight or crack passenger service?**

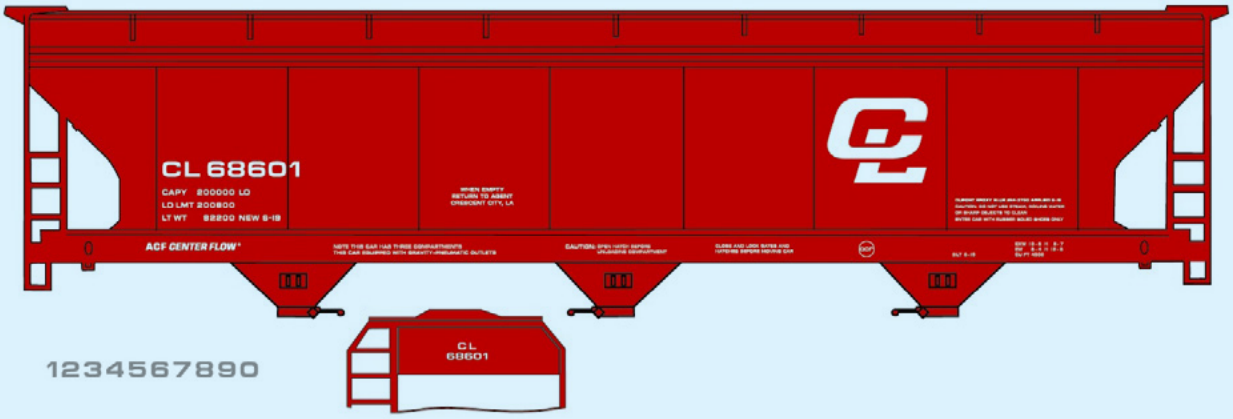
Let everyone know about it with a color ad!

Pike ads are $8 per year and dealer ads are $20 per year.

Payment should be made out to:
LSR NMRA

Contact Speed Muller
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

Ads can then be sent as a JPG file attached to an email to:
rileytriggs@gmail.com



CCMRC ACF Covered Hopper Club Car Order Form

The Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie, Louisiana is offering this Accurail Crescent Lines ACF Center Flow 3 bay covered hopper in HO Scale. It is available for a donation of $30.00 for each car, plus $6.00 shipping for the first car and $2.00 for each additional car ordered. It is available in 1 road number, but additional number decals will be available for $4.00 per set.

To order your car or cars, please send your payment made out to CCMRC for the correct amount to:

Crescent City Model Railroad Club

601 N. Lester Ave

Metairie, LA 70003-6131

Quantity: _____ X $30.00 each

Total for cars: $ _____

Shipping: $6.00

Additional Shipping per car $2.00 ea. $_____

Total Enclosed $_____

Thank You for supporting the Crescent City Model Railroad Club

CRESCENT LINES

Director Reports

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Mike Mackey, MMR
director@cowcatcherdivision.org
cowcatcherdivision.com

First off, I'm hoping that everyone had a fantastic Christmas and New Year's celebration! Division 1 held their annual Christmas party on December 14th and had a superb evening. The 47 people in attendance delighted in lots of fun, food, and fellowship. Our gift exchange delivered lots of hijinks as members fought over different prizes that captured their eye.

Division 1 has been especially busy in the past few months with different functions. Our October meeting gave us a great presentation on "Mail Trains" by Jim Ogden which was extremely informative. We moved our November meeting from our usual second Saturday of the month to the first Saturday due to the Union Pacific Big Boy 4014 tour through Texas. Unfortunately, this meeting move conflicted with the tri-annual hosting of the DFW interchange operations sessions. Despite the conflict we still had over 40 member enjoy the first in a series of four clinics on building roads, hosted by Jeff Palmer.

On the next Saturday, November 9th, we gathered at 8:30 at the Texas Western Model Railroad Club to depart to Buffalo, Texas to watch the largest steam engine in the world, UP 4014 make her appearance and tie up in Palestine, Texas. Twelve car loads of railfans made the trip. Thanks to UP employee and Division 1 member Eric Lewis, we had some prime viewing locations that provided some fantastic shots and video which were not marred by other spectators. Thanks again Eric!

The start of December saw our members hard at work helping another division, in another region, with a membership drive. As many of you already know, the Oklahoma City Train Show is traditionally held the first weekend of December. The local NMRA division, The Oklahoma Heartland Division, has not had a presence at the show for over 5 years. This small division of less than 10 members has been struggling to get things going to say the least. After learning of the situation, Division 1 members helped to organize a booth at the show. With the help of some Division 3 members, Division 1 manned the booth to spread the word about the NMRA. Which brings us back to the division Christmas Party on the next weekend.

Please enjoy the photos I've included from several meetings we had in 2019. Left to right: 1) One of the many monthly clinics we had during 2019. 2) Dick Brannan receives his Volunteer AP Certificate. 3) Making Lou Sassi's "Ground Goop." 4) MMR Jim Packer shares information on caboose techniques for the "Nevadun RR."

2020 promises to be another banner year for Division 1. We already have our schedule of meetings filled for the year which will include everything from a demonstration of how to scratch build N scale bicyclists to enjoying a live steam presentation. We also have a couple of make and take clinics sprinkled in along the way. For a complete list of meeting topics, please visit our division website at www.cowcatcherdivision.org.

Until next time…Keep Training!

Bayou Division 2

by Ken Mason
series9parts@cox.net
504-722-6610

It has been another busy few months here in Division 2. We have had the Ponchatoula Train Show back in November that was hosted by the Louisiana TCA group, A number of successful open house shows at the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie from November all the way through January, and open house shows by the Mid-South Club in Baton Rouge and the regular open house dates hosted by the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders in Jackson, Louisiana.

The annual Train Day at the Library in Baton Rouge this year was moved from the Jones Creek Library to the Main library branch on Goodwood Blvd this time. A record turnout of over 700 attendees came to this show.

Another Ponchatoula Train Show is scheduled for March 7, 2020, and not too far from our area is the Mobile Train Show the weekend of March 14-15 in Mobile Alabama.

Of course by the time you read this the LSR Convention at the Stafford Center in the greater Houston area will be history. I think we have perhaps a record number of attendees for our division in recent history with at least 9 or 10 members from south Louisiana going to the convention this year.

Plans are also coming together for the Train Day at the East Bank Regional Library in Metairie on April 25, 2020. I hope to have a good number of operating portable layouts and other groups to promote model railroading and of course railroad safety.

There will also probably be a couple of open house shows coming in May for National Train Day in our area too.

Perhaps more clinics and meetings are in the future of division 2 since the open house season has come to an end for now.

That is all from Division 2 for now. Let's all do our part to help promote the hobby of model railroading, the NMRA, and try to keep the division and region strong.

North East Texas Division 3

by Donna Orr
donnalorrtx@gmail.com
972-342-8598

In November, 2019, one of the high marked items on our survey requested by our members was "Rust & Weathering" so that was the clinic and it was hands-on! We had HO Scale Boxcar shells from NMRA Headquarters that we used for this clinic, they were painted but not lettered.

We have a new Social Media Chairman, James Knabb and he is opening up avenues for others in the area that have not been exposed to the NMRA, to find out about model railroading.

Trinity River Division, LSR, NMRA
Helping you to learn more about Model Railroading!
Social Media - James Knabb @trinityriver_tx
@trinityriver.tx (Facebook Page)
952-818-4415
TOSHIBA

Craig & Duane Tribuzi assembled Decal kits that were available for those that wanted to also learn and practice applying decals. These kits not only contained the decals but some of the setting solution that is used to make the decal settle into the model. Members also had the option to bring one or more of their own cars and do the weathering on them.

For those that did not want to attend the clinic there was an open discussion.

December 2019, Its, that time again. The most wonderful time of the year. And the Division 3 Christmas Party was on our normal 3rd Saturday of the month. Fun was had by all. And the White elephant was a hit as always.

With the January Train show completed and 13 new members for Division 3 signed up we will Model Railroading 101. (we also signed up 7 new members for Division1, and 1 each for Houston, Missouri, Lubbock) There were 4 other clinics that we offered at this meeting, One was discuss Planning, Benchwork, Trackwork, and basic electrical. The second clinic discussed town and industry and any other type of structure planning and placement. The third clinic was a discussion of DCC, JMRI, and other related topics and the fourth was discussing scenery.

Over this quarter we had several interesting show and tell projects. Here are a few pictures of those projects.
I hope everyone had a great Christmas Holiday season.

CenTex Division 4

by Bob Thiele
director@centexnmra.org
CenTexNMRA.org

As reported in the November ("Fall 2019") Marker Lamp, the Division has become a separate nonprofit organization (formally named "Cen-Tex LSR, Inc."). The Cen-Tex bylaws state that we will continue to elect the office of Director (our executive officer) via the LSR election mechanism using the same schedule the LSR employs, while our other officer (Treasurer) will be elected by the general membership at a regular meeting following the LSR elections.
The LSR elections are held every two years, in even numbered years, and Bob Thiele was elected Director of the Division in May 2018.

Because the new organization was formed outside of the regular election cycle, a vote was held by the membership to confirm that Bob would continue to serve as Director of the new Cen-Tex LSR, Inc. until the end of the current election cycle, which will be May 1, 2020.

In addition, the membership voted for Peter Kazmir to fill the office of Treasurer until May 1, 2020.

The organization will follow our normal election cycles after these short initial terms. (Both officers are free to run for re-election if they desire.)

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts
DavidWL1944@aol.com
806.792.7244

See Board of Directors Report.

Division 7

by Don Kimmell
elf4kcs@mac.com
318.798.7718

See Board of Directors Report.

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Jim Lemond
jimlem@verzion.net

See Board of Directors Report.

Division 6

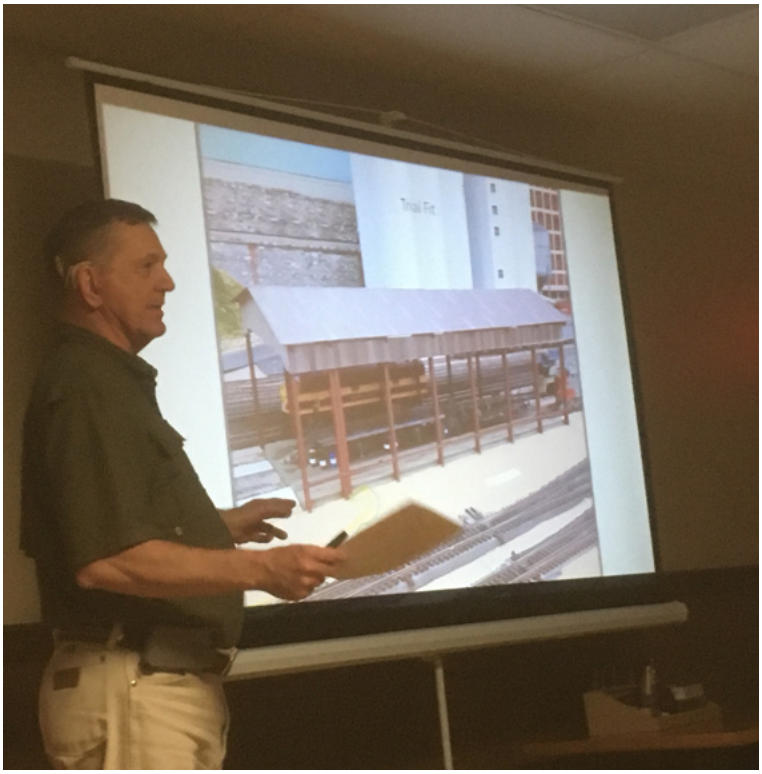
by Don Winn
donnswinn@gmail.com
940.391.0950

Anything big happening in the South Texas Division?? You bet!!! Nothing bigger than the BIG BOY!!! The 4-8-8-4 UP 4014 made its tour through our area in early November. It spent a full day on display at the Sunset Station in San Antonio. Plenty of opportunities to catch run-bys coming and going from the area. Probably will be an event never to be repeated.

In December, the quarterly South Texas Railroad social held another successful event, with approximately 40 in attendance. Clinics included building a modelling desk, tuning up rolling stock, scratch building a diesel service facility and rail fanning around San Antonio. The next social is scheduled for March 28th at the Longhorn Café. Visit southtexasrr.com for more information on the quarterly events. It's free, it's fun, so come on out and join us.

By the time you read this, we will be into February with the LSR convention in Houston and the SAMRA Train Show in Garden Ridge. Coming up in April is the spring version of the New Braunfels Train Show. It's always a good show. Please stop by the NMRA table and say hello.

As always, if there is anything we can do to help you in your modeling, please don't hesitate to contact me.



At-Large

By Marc LaChey
bu1977@att.net

As a Director at Large, I have the luxury of not being confined to updating the region on the activities of a specific Division. So, for this report, I will share with you the benefit of visiting prototype museums and railroads as a means to inspire and enhance your modeling.

We all know the adage that a photo tells a thousand words. But have you heard that going out and seeing something in person beats just one photograph? (I just made this up). My point is that getting out in the field and studying a subject live and in person can't be beat for improving your modeling.

For example, last summer I visited the Laws Railroad Museum in Bishop, California. Up until this visit, I had never seen a gallows turntable before except in photos or drawings. The museum has a gallows turntable still in operation. I took a number of photos wile I studied the details of the turntable up close and personal. Even better, I got to see the turntable in operation as Duane Richardson, Steele Craver and Jeff Palmer supplied the manpower to give the turntable a twirl. The next day, we stopped by the Nevada State Railroad Museum. They also had a gallows turntable. And once again I took a number of detail photos that you don't normally see in books. So now I am ready to model a gallows turntable.

Next summer, the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad will be celebrating their 50th year of operations. The C&TSRR will have a number of special activities occurring during their season. One of which will be a gathering 19th century wood burning steam engines. So, if you have any interest in seeing first-hand the operation of wood burning engine, here is your chance!

Last, it was my intent not to stand for another election as Director at Large. After two terms, I thought it was time to step aside and allow someone else to hold this office. As the time for nominations for next year's slate of board members came to close, Jeff Palmer called and asked me to run for another term. Seems the nominating committee was having a hard time finding candidates for this At Large position. So, I agreed to stand for election for another term.

Nominations

by Blake Bogs
superchief15@yahoo.com

Happy New Year! I missed the deadline last issue so I have to catch you up on everything going on. I officially resigned as Nomination Chair in October 2019. I felt it was time to step down due to everything going on in my masters program. I've enjoyed this position enormously and want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve in the Nomination Committee from 2011 to 2019. In the past 8 years we have moved from paper ballots to electronic voting. This has been a great step in the right direction. I am proud of the nomination committee and need to thank all of the members. Thank you so much for all your work.

When you get the ballot you will notice I am not running again. This is officially my last term and it runs out this year meaning that this is one of the last reports you will be reading from me. I have a couple more reports and then I am finished as your Director at Large! I have expressed this in the past, but I will express it again. Thank you so much for having faith in me as your Director at Large. It has been the ultimate honor serving in this position.

Our local model railroad fellowship group Petticoat has been having a lot of fantastic clinics recently. In September we had a clinic from Mike Baxter talking about all of the exciting things happening at The Tomball Depot. In October, Gregg Hammargren gave a clinic on his HOn3 layout that he has been building. In December, Craig Brantley gave a talk on his O/On3 layout that will soon be torn out. In January, Jim Brandenburg spoke to us about his HO/HOn3 layout. Finally, in February Chuck Lind gave a talk on one of the past Narrow Gauge conventions. We always have a fun time at Petticoat. Come join us some time on the first Friday of the month at Valley Ranch BBQ. We start meeting at 6. The clinic starts at 7.

I'd like to take a step back to November when Big Boy 4014 came through Houston! All I can say is WOW! The Big Boy put on quite a show for us in Houston. The Big Boy came into Houston on Wednesday and was displayed downtown on Thursday. Friday, it left for College Station. Then on Saturday, it went to Palestine. I was honored to have seen it 3 of the 4 days it was in Houston. Even though it was pouring down rain on Thursday, I was amazed how the crowds turned out! I was amazed at how many people were at every stop! Thank you Union Pacific for bringing the Big Boy down to Houston!

In January, I was able to attend the Plano train show as well as view a layout after attending the show. It's always encouraging to not only see a well attended show, but also see young people attending. Model Railroading is alive and well!

I will end this reminding everyone that even though I am no longer Nomination Chair, election time is near! Our election will be conducted soon. Please vote! If you have trouble voting, please email Jeff Palmer or Pete Leach!

Keep them trains running,

Convention

By Marc LaChey
bu1977@att.net

Following a referral from our President, Chuck Lind, I have had some very preliminary emails and calls with the President of the Mid-Continent Region, Brad Slone, regarding a joint convention between the LSR and MCoR. Initial conversations are for a convention to be held in Tulsa, OK in June 2021. More details to be developed. But this is very encouraging news.

Even better, we have word from Bob Thiele of Division 4, that Division 4 is prepared to host the LSR convention in 2022! Again, I expect more details to be available after the winter board meeting in Houston in February.

So, it now appears we have conventions set for 2021, 2022 and the NMRA National in 2023.

Treasurer Report

by Speed Muller, Treasurer
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com
469-345-0022

In the financial news: All the pennies are still here! You will notice the convention related amounts starting to show higher than last year. Well, we are paying for the Frisco and Houston conventions from the same financial year's budget. Next year should not have those expenses.

We still have full, one year NMRA memberships (including the magazine) available for any veterans or active service personnel who would like to join.

Speed.

First 3 Quarters, 2019/2020:

Beginning Balances (2019/05/01)	
LSR Unrestricted Accounts	$38,677.69
Beginning Total LSR Net Worth	**$38,677.69**
Bob Clarke Award Fund	$ 528.86
Division 2 and 7 Rebates in Escrow	$ 78.50
Delattre Fund	$ 816.00
Bank Saldo	**$40,101.05**
Proceeds	
NMRA Rebate	$ 855.00
Convention proceeds	$ 3,504.00
Total Proceeds	**$ 4,359.00**
Disbursements	
Rebates to Divisions	$ 427.50
Website Costs (covering 3+ years)	$ 596.14
Non-rail Expenses	$ 740.00
Contest Room Expenses	$ 455.29
Total Disbursements	**$ 2,218.93**
Net Proceeds - Disbursements	**$ 2,140.07**
Updates to the Restricted Funds:	
Division 2 Rebate out of Escrow	$ -0.50
Division 5 Rebate into Escrow	$ 10.50
Division 7 Rebate into Escrow	$ 10.50
	20.50
Ending Balances (2020/01/31)	
LSR Unrestricted Accounts Total	$40,817.76
Total LSR Net Worth	**$40,817.76**
Bob Clarke Award	$ 528.86
Division 5 and 7 Rebates in Escrow	$ 99.00
Delattre Fund	$ 816.00
Bank Saldo	**$42,261.62**

Dealer Ads

B.E.D.T.

Lackawanna Railroad

Advertise your layout here
...*in color!*
contact
GERT "SPEED" MULLER
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

Pike Ads

B&O

Tall Pine Lumber Company

Tall Pine Lumber Company RR
West Coast Logging in On3
Chuck & Laurie Lind
3680 County Road 324
Navasota, Texas 77868
979-219-3305

Texas Western Model Railroad Club
6808 Forest Hill Drive, Forest Hill, TX 76140 (682) 587-2092
www.twmrc.org
Building New HO & HOn3 Layout
Clinics
100% NMRA
Memberships Open
Home of the Texas Western Train Show
Thursdays 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM
Saturdays 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM

BC&G
BAYOU CITY & GULF RAILROAD
New Members & Visitors Welcome!
How-to Clinics - Operating Sessions - Family Activities
N'Crowd Model Railroad Society
4007-E Bellaire Blvd., Houston, Texas
www.houstonNcrowd.org

Pennsylvania Railroad
Laurel Valley Secondary
Pittsburgh Division Circa 1957
Brady & Jane McGuire, Sherman, Texas
903-868-2726
Southwestern Pennsylvania in Texas O Scale

RED ARROW LINES

GRIZZLY RIDGE R.R.
1881 Grrr 1889
The Bear-ly Make It Route
A 6' Division of the
Ark-La-Tex Modular Club
Tom White Haughton, La.

ATLANTA & ST. ANDREWS BAY RAILWAY
The Bay Line
THROUGH AIR-CONDITIONED SLEEPING CAR SERVICE BETWEEN PANAMA CITY, FLA., AND ATLANTA, GA.

Cowcatcher
Magazine
March/April 2014
Class I and Shortline News
Getting the right shot
With digital photography, layout photos are easier to shoot but knowing the basics are still just as essential
SGMA-MAC makes an impression
Texas Central aims to be first high-speed rail in U.S.

All about the community of model railroading and rail enthusiasm!

Proud supporter of the Lone Star Region

Cowcatcher Magazine
www.cowcatchermagazine.com

ACME & MINERAL CITY RAILROAD
Bill Dryden
(469) 964-8571
Georgetown, Texas
bdr149@airmail.net
Life Member NMRA & LSR

JERSEY CENTRAL LINES

Pike Ads

NYDRX

MILWAUKEE SOUTHWESTERN
"THE LINDAS"
WACO, TEXAS

COWTOWN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB
(*Formally the LMRA Railroad Club*)
CMRRC
Fort Worth, Texas
An HO-scale, EasyDCC operating club rising from the ashes of a club that was forced to relocate and is in the process of constructing a new layout. Visit our website for membership and contact information.
Gold Rail Award Winner 2009, 2010 & 2013
www.cmrrc.webs.com

WEST VIRGINIA WESTERN
"THE SHINE LINE"
TAYLOR, TEXAS HO & 1-1/2" SCALE

GM&O

Rock Island

DAWCHA SOUTHERN RAILWAY CO.
IRON HORSE ROUTE
CHARLIE SPANGLER, PRES.
830-885-4515
2351 Rolling Creek
Spring Branch, Tx 78070-5656

SOUTHERN PACIFIC LINES

THE ALLEGHENY RAILROAD
HORSESHOE CURVE
ALTOONA
PRR
Jerry Schoenberg
Carrollton, Texas (972) 242-9053
arrjerry@aol.com

The Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders
www.dovetailstudio.com/trains

PRR

SC&W
Gilbert Freitag Houston, Texas

NEVADUN RAILROAD
Jim Packer
Colleyville, Texas 76034
817-514-7291
E-mail - jim.packer@sbcglobal.net
Website - WWW.NEVADUNRAILROAD.COM
RNDR

Advertise your layout here
...in color!
contact
Speed Muller
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

MID SOUTH RAILROAD CLUB
BATON ROUGE, LA
MEETINGS: EVERY TUESDAY @ 7:00PM
HO WALK AROUND WITH NCE-DCC
SANTAFE@TLXNET.NET

Next deadline for submissions is April 15

The Marker Lamp

submittals and inquiries | rileytriggs@gmail.com